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"...wireless companies are ripping us Canadians off." - mopme101

"we've been gouged for too long..." - owransh

"Canadians are waiting for better cell phone service! :)" - mfjormby

"Can hardly wait to drop my current carrier!" - Malcolm. L

"The incumbents have held a monopoly for farr tooo longggg." - Mr. VoIP

"...put some fear into the likes of the big three..." - Troy

"CANADA NEEDS MORE Cellphone providers for sure." - swapan

"I'm disgusted..." - AMADHA

"Prices here are totally outrageous." - popy

"I nearly got sick comparing overseas prices to Canada's." - the other guy

"I am sick and tired of getting gouged by cell phone providers." - Gramps

"...it costs nearly twice more than what they advertise for." - abracadabra

"I loathe my provider. In fact, I HATE all three..." - jordanb

"We've all had enough from the big Three robbing us all!" - mnaseer

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Gun reportedly pulled during snowball fight, cop on desk duty

D.C. A Washington, D.C., police officer is on desk duty while the department investigates reports he pulled a gun during a mass snowball fight on a city street.

Mayor Adrian Fenty said yesterday the department's internal affairs office is investigating witness accounts and video footage.

Police said in a release images and statements appeared to support claims the off-duty officer did pull a gun after he and his personal car were hit by snowballs.

Hundreds of people were gathered for the snowball fight during Saturday's record snowstorm.

A video posted on YouTube showed a man holding what appears to be a gun in the snowy street. Another video shows the same man telling people he is a detective and that he pulled his gun because he was hit by snowballs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Sports



Link to exclusive Leafs game report and highlights. See the top of page 36.

Health pg 41

Surviving holiday stress

On the web

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Games Canada's stellar ladies' lineup



Captain Hayley Wickenheiser, right, from Shaunavon, Sask., co-captain Jayna Hefford, centre, from Kingston, and co-captain Caroline Ouellette from Montreal pose for a photo after the Canadian women's hockey team for the 2010 Olympics was announced in Calgary yesterday. Story, page 38

Eves sounds warning on selling LCBO

Former premier Ernie Eves says the cash-strapped Liberal government could have a hard time getting a good price for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

After rejecting the idea of selling the LCBO in 2005, Premier Dalton McGuinty has once again asked for expert advice on the possibility to deal with a record \$24.7-billion deficit.

Eves says the former Conservative government went through a similar exercise in 2002, but couldn't get an adequate price for the agency, which turns over \$1.4 billion a year in profits.

He says a government should not be selling assets that generate so much annual revenue just to solve what he calls "an in-year deficit problem."

Eves says he laughed at one valuation of the LCBO at \$10 billion, calling it "way too low" for such a revenue-generating agency.

McGuinty says he has a duty to examine all the province's assets for a possible sale, including the LCBO, which has 610 stores and about 6,000 employees in virtually every community across Ontario.

However, the premier says he hasn't made any decisions to sell the LCBO.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Premier weighs sale

McGuinty admits privatization has benefits for deficit

The province has "a responsibility" to consider selling off public assets to cope with a record \$24.7-billion deficit and looming demands of an aging population, says Premier Dalton McGuinty.

In his most candid comments yet on what would be one of the biggest policy flip-flops of the Liberals' six years in office, McGuinty admitted yesterday privatization has its benefits.

"There's never an easy way to do this," the premier said at a hastily scheduled appearance on CHUM FM's Roger, Darren and Marilyn morning



"There's never an easy way to do this. We've had to stimulate the economy ... and we're running a significant deficit."

Premier Dalton McGuinty

show. "We've had to stimulate the economy like every other place, virtually, on the planet," he said.

"We've put \$32 billion into the economy over two years to build infrastructure and create jobs right now when we need them and we're running a significant deficit."

The budget shortfall has so spooked the Liberals

that they are spending about \$200,000 to hire CIBC World Markets and Goldman Sachs to determine the value of assets such as the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp., Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

"So one of the things that we have to do — and I think it's the responsible

thing to do — is you've got to take a look at what it is that we own and ask ourselves whether or not that's the best place for our money," said McGuinty.

"Or should it begin to go more into health care and education?"

McGuinty said that means the Liberals have no choice but to consider their options.

If the Liberals do press forward with privatization, it would be as significant a policy U-turn as the 2004 decision to raise taxes just months after promising not to do so.

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Local



Invest Toronto appoints new CEO

The board of directors for Invest Toronto has given its blessing to the appointment of Renato Discenza, left, as the agency's new chief executive officer, CTV Toronto reports. Discenza replaces Michael Bryant, the former economic development minister of Ontario who resigned in early September after becoming involved in an incident with a cyclist in summer. Bryant is facing criminal charges as a result of that incident.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Tomorrow's Metro Movies

Alvin, Simon and Theodore are back and up to more hijinks in Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.



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Toronto 18 treated well: Guard

Terror suspects have laptops with them in their cells, officer says

The Toronto 18 suspects at a detention centre west of Toronto have been treated better than other inmates at the facility, two correctional staff told the court yesterday.

A correctional officer and supervisor from the Maplehurst detention centre in Milton testified at the sentencing hearing for Saad Gaya, who pleaded guilty in September to intending to cause an explosion for the benefit of a terrorist group.

Gaya, 22, was among 18 people arrested in June 2006 in a massive terror

Religion

• Special accommodations were also made for the Toronto 18 suspects's Muslim faith, including visits usually twice a

week with an imam, which is a privilege not afforded to other inmates, officer Don McCaffrey said.

plot to wreak havoc on several targets, including Parliament and RCMP headquarters.

He is one of four of those people to plead guilty.

Gaya and Saad Khalid, who also pleaded guilty, were arrested while unloading bags labelled "ammonium nitrate" from a

truck driven by an undercover police officer. But Gaya did not have knowledge of the magnitude of the explosive force of the purported ammonium nitrate, nor did he know the group's leaders intended for him to drive a van loaded with fertilizer bombs, according to an agreed statement of facts.

A non-communication order between the co-accused was lifted in June 2007, meaning they were no longer in segregation, and could mingle in a common area in the wing that housed only them.

Since that time they get several hours a day of free time in the common area, where they could watch television. Normally in the detention centre there are 32 inmates per TV, whereas in the Toronto 18 suspects' wing there were 10 people clamouring for one TV, and they got a remote while other inmates

did not, said officer Don McCaffrey.

The terror inmates have also had laptops with them in their cells because of an order that they have 24-hour access to the evidence in their cases.

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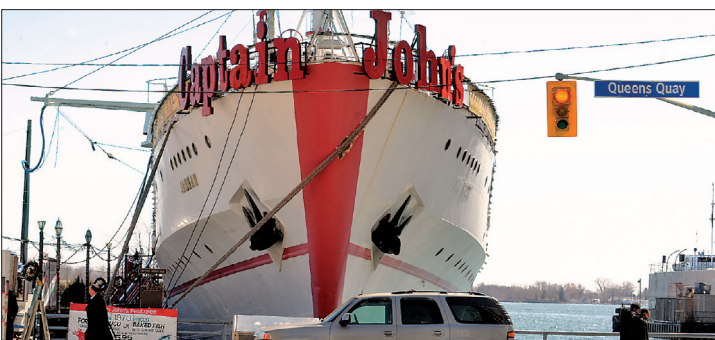
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Captain of floating restaurant set to retire

FOR SALE In an ideal world, Captain John Letnik's retirement would involve simply pulling up anchor, starting the motor and steering into the sunset aboard the M.S. Jadran — the cruise ship-turned restaurant that has been a fixture on the city's lakeshore for decades.

But for Letnik, owner of Captain John's restaurant at the foot of Yonge Street, the reality is more grounded. After lengthy deliberations, Letnik put his prized ship up for sale for a cool \$1.5 million. The listing, on MLS, is looking for someone willing to buy the historical icon — and then some.

"The boat needs a little bit of upgrading. And it needs younger blood," said



Captain John Letnik, 72, has decided to retire and put the M.S. Jadran, which houses the Captain John's restaurant, up for sale.

Letnik, 72, sitting in the dining hall of his ship, looking at home in the outdated sitting room.

"More than half the ship is still empty. There is a lot of potential here for a young person," he said.

"They can make it into a hotel, a lounge, or even a casino."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fort York set to get a makeover

VISITOR CENTRE Plans to make Fort York a well-connected part of the city, rather than an increasingly isolated plot of land flanked by road and rail, have moved another step forward.

The city announced Friday that Vancouver's Patkau Architects Inc., with Kearns Mancini Architects Inc. of Toronto, had won the competition to create a new visitor centre.

The centre will cost about \$18 million, with construction expected to start in late 2010 or early 2011 for completion in 2012, the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Members of Canada's Tamil community have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the creation of an independent state in Sri Lanka. A total of 48,583 people voted nationwide in the referendum held Saturday with 99 per cent voting yes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Work starts on Sheppard LRT

Construction has started on a new light rail line in north Toronto that will eventually link up with the city's massive transit system.

Government officials at the groundbreaking yesterday said the Sheppard East Light Rail Transit line will create jobs, increase ridership, improve air quality and reduce travel time.

Those on hand included Conservative MP Peter Kent, Ontario's Transportation Minister Jim Bradley

"This transit line will provide residents, students and commuters with an additional transportation choice."

MP Peter Kent

and Toronto Mayor David Miller.

The 14-kilometre light rail line will be built on Sheppard Avenue East in a dedicated right of way running from the Don Mills subway station to Meadowvale Road.

Prime Minister Stephen

Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty formed a partnership this year to help fund the project.

The federal government will contribute one-third of the total cost, to a maximum of \$333 million, with the provincial government

providing two-thirds, or more than \$633 million.

The Sheppard East light rail line is part of the Transit City initiative to expand rapid transit to all neighbourhoods throughout Toronto.

"This transit line will provide residents, students and commuters with an additional transportation choice, improving their ability to travel quickly and efficiently," said Kent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crown lawyer charged with assault, mischief after party

CHARGES A Toronto Crown attorney has been charged with assault and mischief after a party this weekend.

Christopher Webb was arrested late Sunday in the southwest end of the city. The 38-year-old was released from 14 Division shortly after midnight.

Webb, who is a Crown prosecutor with the criminal law office and rotates through numerous Toronto courts, has been charged with assault and mischief under \$5,000, which usually means property was damaged.

Police spokesperson Const. Tony Vella said Toronto police are not releasing details of the inci-

dent that lead to the charges. But an individual familiar with the arrest said Webb was at a party with friends. At one point, he and his girlfriend got into a dispute and he "shoved" her.

Another individual at the party phoned the police.

"The whole thing is way overblown," said the individual.

Webb answered his work phone at his 720 Bay St. office yesterday evening, but politely refused to comment.

Webb's first court appearance is scheduled in the new year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Zoo trainers join holiday reindeer games

HOLIDAY When it comes to performing, Ivy is a natural.

As children stand around the weekend reindeer exhibit at Plant World on Eglinton Avenue West, their heads peering over the white fence, the 12-year-old reindeer stands.

Ivy nuzzles the fence and tilts her head so her antlers almost graze the children's outstretched hands. Her offspring, Kristen, follows closely behind.

Some of the kids squeal. Others tug at their parent's sleeve, asking, "Is that really one of Santa's reindeer?"

Stacey Baker stands nearby, holding a rope connected to Ivy's halter. Come the holiday season, Baker becomes a reindeer wrangler.

The Bowmanville Zoo keeper loads the animals into a horse trailer and chauffeurs them to everything from a public school assembly to a tree-lighting ceremony.



Sarah Stata, an animal trainer from the Bowmanville Zoo, leads a reindeer at Plant World.

With animals as good-natured as Ivy, her job is more fun than it is difficult: "Ivy's very happy in her surroundings right now," Baker said. "She really makes it easy."

The zoo acquired Ivy in the early 2000s and trained her for the Christmas movie, Blizzard.

Reindeer are domesticated animals; the wild equivalent is the caribou. Train-

ing consists of strapping on a halter and walking with the animal. Handlers spend hours a week with each reindeer and, over time, a relationship is formed. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Policy expert quits eHealth

BOARD One of Canada's foremost health policy experts is quitting the board of troubled eHealth Ontario, saying directors were often in the dark about expense account abuses and untended contracts at the root of the scandal at the health records agency.

Michael Decter, a former deputy minister of health, has resigned effective Dec. 31, three months before his one-year term was slated to end. The surprise move comes as eHealth embarks on a rebuilding phase after this fall's scathing report from the provincial auditor general.

"It's kind of the end of an adventure," said Decter, who headed the agency's finance and audit committee since May, around the time allegations surfaced



"I learned more from reading the front page

of the Toronto Star than I did from anything I got internally ... for quite a time."

Michael Decter

about lucrative contracts given to consultants without competitive bidding.

"I was never comfortable being chair of finance and audit when I learned more from reading the front page of the Toronto Star than I did from anything I got internally, which was true for quite a time."

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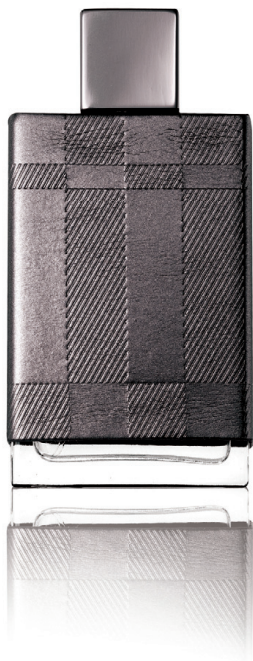
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the **Bay**

Four people were sent to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries Sunday night after a car crash in Oakville. A Honda Civic was travelling eastbound on Dundas Street near Mead-owridge Drive when the driver lost control and drifted into the westbound lane. A westbound SUV then collided with the Civic, slicing the vehicle in half. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Saving on testing

Study doubts value of diabetes self-monitoring

Ontario could save tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars by cutting back on the number of unnecessary glucose tests conducted weekly by people 65 and older who have Type 2 diabetes, Toronto researchers suggest.

Their work, published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, looked only at data from Ontario. But the lead author, Tara Gomes, said the same may be true of other provinces.

A more rational policy on glucose self-testing by seniors with Type 2 diabetes could improve the

quality of life for the people themselves and ease the strain on provincial coffers, said Gomes and colleagues from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and St. Michael's Hospital.

Any changes would not apply to people with Type 1 diabetes or people who control Type 2 diabetes with insulin. They need to regularly monitor their blood sugar and adjust their therapy accordingly.

But clinical trials have found that performing multiple daily tests of blood-sugar levels does not

help people with Type 2 diabetes who aren't on insulin to control their condition. And there is some evidence it actually provokes anxiety and even depression.

In addition, it costs the province plenty. The researchers found that over the past 12 years, the amount the Ontario government spent on glucose test strips rose by 250 per cent. They estimate over the next five years, the province's tab for the test strips used by people 65 and over will be \$500 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Union Station Festive singers



Commuters rush past a group of costumed carollers at Union Station yesterday morning. The festive singers were helping to promote Sherlock Holmes, which opens on Christmas Day.

JOAN KENNEDY/METRO (TORONTO)



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Low-income diabetics have higher mortality rate: Study

HEALTH While the overall death rate from diabetes has declined in Canada, those with lower incomes continue to have a higher mortality rate related to the disease than their wealthier counterparts, an Ontario study suggests.

Researchers found that deaths from the complications of diabetes declined by more than 30 per cent between 1995 and 2006 in Ontario. However, diabetics from lower-income neighbourhoods experienced a significantly smaller improvement than those from more upscale neighbourhoods.

The mortality rate fell by 33 per cent across all income groups, but higher-income groups had a larger decline in diabetes-related deaths than the lowest income group (36 per cent versus 31 per cent).

In those aged 30 to 64, there was a more than a 40 per cent widening gap in the mortality ratio between the poorest and richest groups of diabetics, the researchers report in this week's issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

"Our findings illustrate the widening impact of income on the health of dia-

31% The decline in diabetes-related deaths among those in lower-income neighbourhoods. Those in higher-income groups had a 36 per cent decline in deaths.

betes patients, even in a publicly funded health system," said principal investigator Dr. Lorraine Lipscombe of Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

Over the 11-year study period, the number of Ontarians aged 30 and older with diabetes rose 130 per cent. Death rates from the disease were significantly higher in men and in people aged 65 and older.

While treatment advances have contributed to improved survival overall, they can pose a financial burden for some diabetics.

In Ontario, for instance, the provincial health plan covers the costs of medications and supplies only for people over 65 or those with a very low income. Consequently, younger and poorer diabetics who are ineligible for the drug plan may not benefit as much from advances in care as more affluent patients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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CoolBrands International Inc. said yesterday it has booked a loss in the first-quarter, reversing year-earlier profits. For the period ended Nov. 30, the frozen treat maker recorded a net loss of \$232,000, or less than a penny a share, compared with net income of \$2.7 million, or four cents a share, it generated last year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Student squeals on mouse

Complaint about rodent at TTC eatery prompts health inspection

Their campaign began as a twitch of brown fur spotted from the corner of Borys Machnikowski's eye — a tiny mouse, munching on a mini cheese roll inside a TTC eatery.

Machnikowski, a 20-year-old Centennial College student, quickly snapped a photo and showed it to store employees at Bakery on the Go in the Warden subway station. But when workers failed to remove surrounding food and continued serving customers, he and his friends felt compelled to act.

"It's a public health issue," said Machnikowski. "There's bound to be mice, but they (kept selling) baked goods to people knowingly and willingly. That's what disgusts me most."

Since their Saturday night rodent encounter, Machnikowski and his friends have done every-



Borys Machnikowski spotted a mouse eating a cheese roll in Bakery on the Go, a cafe at Warden station and photographed it on his cellphone. There were no cheese rolls on sale yesterday in the cafe.

thing they can to "get the word out," including contacting public health officials, alerting media outlets, and posting flyers to warn would-be bread buyers.

While they aren't sur-

prised a dining establishment could have mice — especially one inside a TTC station — the boys are shocked at how store employees handled their complaint. Machnikowski says

an employee "gave him a blank stare," removed the tray of mini cheese rolls and continued selling bread from the same display case, without cleaning or disinfecting the area.

Store officials could not be reached for comment yesterday, and several employees refused to speak with reporters.

According to the bakery's DineSafe history, the establishment received a conditional pass in August 2008 for two infractions and was given a full pass two days later.

But since its last inspection in December 2008, a work backlog from the summer's labour strike meant the bakery has so far gone unchecked in 2009 — that is, until Machnikowski's complaint prompted an investigation.

Yesterday, the bakery was given a conditional pass for five infractions.

Jim Chan, the city's public food safety manager, says investigators found no indication of an "active infestation," but old mouse droppings were found on the floor. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Youth jail flawed, guard says

BRAMPTON A flawed admissions process at a Brampton superjail is endangering troubled teens and staff, says a senior jail guard at the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre.

In one case, a teenage Crown witness was put in the same unit as the group of young offenders he was to testify against.

"We're mixing gang members together — it's chaos because we're not classifying these youths properly," said Bruce England, a youth services officer at The Roy and president of OPSEU Local 290.

The 192-bed jail, which opened in May, is under increased scrutiny this week after the Toronto Star published serious allegations of abuse and violence experienced by its detainees. They described a brutal hazing from fellow inmates while staff turned a blind eye, being deprived of medication, being locked in isolation for days wearing only boxer shorts, and being subjected to excessive use of force by staff. More than 160 teens have filed 250 formal complaints about the facility with Ontario's Children and Youth Advocate since late summer.

"We don't want to get kids beaten up either, but some of it is not in our control," England said. "We have upper management putting these kids wherever they want to put them. They're putting them in units that these kids shouldn't be put in."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FINANCE INDUSTRY Several of Canada's largest financial institutions will dole out \$138.8 million for their role in the asset-backed commercial paper meltdown in settlements approved yesterday. National Bank will pay the majority with its share, totalling \$75 million in penalties and investigation costs. Several other major players in the industry, including CIBC, HSBC and Laurentian Bank, will make up the rest.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Passengers recount Megabus journey

ACCIDENT "It was like a Twilight Zone episode," one passenger said of a harrowing bus ride that resulted in a crash near Buffalo that left 40 people stranded for seven hours on Sunday.

Police in New York State said the driver of the Megabus coach apparently nodded off at the wheel. Travelling between New York City and Toronto, the bus slid off Interstate 90 in LeRoy, a suburb of Buffalo,

Trailways to the rescue

• After the crash, state troopers tried in vain to contact Megabus. Eventually, passen-

gers were moved to a rest stop, where another company, Trailways, got them to Toronto.

about 7:15 a.m. It stayed upright, and one person had a minor injury.

"Right as we pulled out of the Lincoln Tunnel, lights began flashing on the dashboard, and bells and buzzers were going off every 10 sec-

onds," said passenger Art Rees, who was on his way home to Syracuse and got off before the bus crashed.

It took nine hours to make the usual four-hour trip to his hometown, said Rees. Part of the delay was due to a

snowstorm, but Rees said problems continued after passing the blizzard.

The windshield was often fogged up, he said, and a passenger who came up to show the driver how to clear the window was asked to go outside to break ice off the windshield wipers.

More than once, said Rees, the bus hit the noisy rumble strip that indicates a vehicle is veering off the paved highway. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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Password scammers target social networks

Mike Brown was late to join Facebook's swelling ranks. When he finally did, he kept his security settings high, used perfect punctuation and was careful about what he posted.

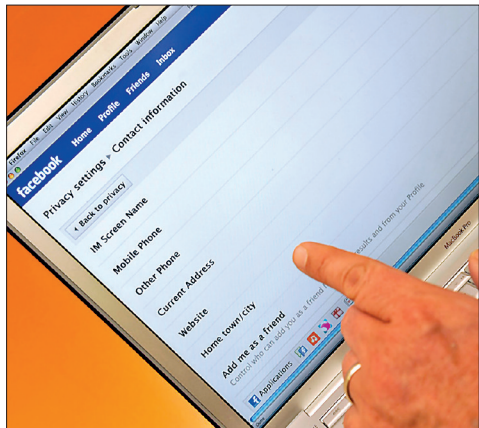
His friends couldn't believe he would post a "very, very vulgar" pornographic picture on his Facebook profile, as he appeared to last April. As they suspected, he didn't. His account had been hacked.

Users of social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook are learning they are vulnerable to online bullies, who use malicious programs to snatch their identities.

Perpetrators access their accounts by figuring out passwords or by "phishing" — sending links to fake websites masquerading as trusted ones, which ask for and collect login and password information. Once they access an account, these cybervillains use the individual's online identity to ask friends for money, promote products or just cause trouble.

On Twitter, this might mean offering followers a \$500 Victoria's Secret gift card or encouraging them to click on a link to get 100 followers. Even celebrities have been hit, including CNN's Rick Sanchez, Britney Spears and Barack Obama, who last January unknowingly asked his followers to take a survey and win \$500 in free gas.

Stephen Hockema, a pro-



Facebook users, along with other users of social networking sites, are vulnerable to password theft by hackers, who use their accounts and info to run scams, advertise to users' friends and contacts, or wreak havoc.

Don't be phishing bait!

- Never follow links in emails, which may lead to fake websites asking for logins and passwords for various online accounts.
- Don't use any proper names in passwords. Instead, make your password more complex by swapping some letters for numbers, or adding backslashes

es or symbols.

- Do not use the same password for all your accounts, and change them regularly.
- Companies should tell their employees to leave peer-to-peer file sharing and social networking at home to limit the risk of infections.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

fessor in the faculty of information at the University of Toronto, doesn't think people realize how valuable social networking info is to spammers. "You can target a specific group that you know has something in common," he says. "You can actually send a message to somebody that

looks as if it's coming from a friend. You're much more likely to get their attention. That's what advertisers are paying for, is attention."

Facebook now has a list of security FAQs about these scams, including what steps to take if you're targeted. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto Humane Society remains closed while animals are checked

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says it has yet to complete the job of checking animals at the Toronto Humane Society. The OSPCA had indicated earlier that the shelter would reopen in time for the holidays. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Fund cut alarms aid agencies

Groups fear lack of support should they contradict Tory policy

The Harper government's decision to axe funding for a Christian aid organization has cast a pall over foreign aid groups who fear they'll be cut off and their reputations smeared if they dare to contradict Conservative policy.

Groups involved in aid work in the Middle East are particularly fearful, given that the government appears to have expanded the definition of anti-Semitism to include any criticism of Israel.

"It is a desperate tragedy if, in order to deliver resources to partners abroad, you have to somehow



"It is a desperate tragedy if, in order to deliver resources ... you have to somehow dance ... to some sort of political tune."

Gerry Barr, council president

dance ... to some sort of political tune," said Gerry Barr, president of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.

The council, an umbrella group of about 100 Canadian international development organizations, came out swinging yesterday against the government's decision to cut off funding to KAIROS.

KAIROS is a Toronto-

based social-justice group made up of 11 Christian churches and faith-based organizations. For 35 years, it has received federal funding to help finance projects abroad aimed at combatting human rights abuses and promoting environmental sustainability.

Last month, the group's pitch for \$7 million over four years was turned down flat. The Canadian

International Development Agency informed KAIROS that it no longer fit with CIDA's priorities of providing food security and helping youth.

But then last week, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a conference in Jerusalem that KAIROS's funding was axed as part of a government effort to crack down on anti-Semitism. He accused the group of having played "a leadership role" in the campaign for a boycott of Israel.

KAIROS executive director Mary Corkery said the group has never joined the call for a boycott.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has levied its first fines on an unregistered college after it was criticized by Ontario ombudsman André Marin, seen in this file photo, for its policing of rogue schools.

Unregistered college fined

EDUCATION In a dramatic change of policy, the provincial regulator of private career colleges has levied its first fines — totalling \$36,000 — on an unregistered college.

The Toronto School of Music on Bayview Avenue has also been ordered to stop advertising unapproved vocational programs and issue refunds to students who were enrolled in those programs.

The crackdown under the Private Career Colleges Act comes less than two months after the Ontario government increased fines and promised tougher policing of rogue

career colleges in the province.

Those new rules followed a Toronto Star investigation that blasted the province for not protecting students.

At that time, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities was criticized by provincial ombudsman André Marin for practising what he called "wilful blindness" in its enforcement of the act.

Colin Yip said he was unaware the Toronto School of Music had to register with the ministry because it was not a requirement in 1997 when he founded the school. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Coroner investigating death of Roma refugee at detention centre

MYSTERY A Toronto woman is seeking answers after her husband, a Roma refugee, died in the Toronto West Detention Centre on Dec. 8, two days after he was supposed to have been deported.

The Ontario coroner is investigating the death of Jan Samko, 31, who was

scheduled to be sent back to the Czech Republic.

On Dec. 9, a Toronto police officer told Samko's widow Nadezda Peterova and the couple's daughter Sabina, 9, the factory worker had been found dead in his cell.

Andrei Balog, Samko's brother-in-law, said a con-

sulate official initially told them "there was some kind of incident. Mr. Samko got upset and he had to be subdued at the airport," but the office later suggested the man had a "heart problem."

Other than a limp from an injury he suffered in an attack by neo-Nazis as a

youngster, Balog said Samko was healthy.

Stuart McGetrick, spokesperson for the provincial Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, said if the death is ruled "not of natural cause," an inquest will be held.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Two men face charges after RCMP seized 85,000 contraband cigarettes, two vehicles and cash in Middleton, N.S. They were arrested last Friday for possession of tobacco products not stamped in accordance with the Excise Act. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Fake kidnapping victim let off

A woman who launched an RCMP investigation after falsely claiming she'd been kidnapped by a tattooed man with a gun has been given a conditional discharge. Marcia Lynette Simmons, 44, of Noonan, N.B., had pleaded guilty to public mischief. She didn't explain why she travelled to Toronto in August or why she reported she'd been forced to drive there by an armed assailant who didn't exist. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Big spending back?

Reports suggest Canadians are opening wallets again

Canadians appear more confident about their current financial situation just as the year's busiest shopping season enters its final days, leading some economists to say retail sales could climb to pre-recessionary levels.

The Conference Board of Canada, a private-sector economic forecaster, reported yesterday its consumer confidence index rose 3.7 percentage points in December after two months of decline. This places it 26.2 points higher than in January this year.

"These results indicate that Canadians still have mixed views on the strength of the economic recovery," said Pedro Antunes, the board's director for national and provincial forecasts.

"Optimism about current finances and employment in the near future increased, but sentiment deteriorated on the outlook for future finances and whether it's a good time to make a major purchase," Antunes said.

Confidence remained highest in the Prairie provinces; it also rose in Atlantic Canada and On-



Gains in consumer confidence were recorded in most parts of the country this month by the Conference Board of Canada. Statistics Canada also reported stronger retail sales in October.

82.8 Consumer confidence index this month (100 points equals 2002 level)
26.2 Percentage point gain in consumer confidence since January

tario, while falling slightly in B.C. and Quebec.

Statistics Canada also reported yesterday that October retail sales were at levels not seen in a year. Its report found sales rose 0.8 per cent in October from

the previous month, to \$35.3 billion, the eighth gain in 10 months. In volume, overall retail sales increased 0.6 per cent and returned to a level last seen before the sharp declines of late 2008.

Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the two reports revealed solid foundations ahead of the holiday shopping season.

"The gain in October actually makes it three months in a row where

we've seen solid spending gains," Porter said.

The auto sector, especially new cars, led the rebound. Excluding this sector, sales actually went down 0.2 per cent in October as food and alcohol purchases fell sharply. The largest increase outside the auto sector was in clothing and accessories.

But Porter said lower gasoline prices masked much of the improvement in retail spending.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian's Nobel win questioned

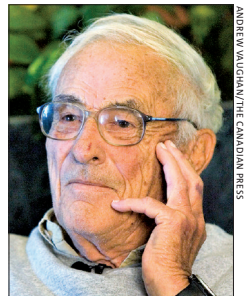
Ex-colleague says prize undeserved

CONTROVERSY Former colleagues of a Canadian physicist who was recently awarded the Nobel Prize say the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has made a big mistake.

Earlier this month, the academy cited Nova Scotia's Willard Boyle and American George Smith for inventing an image sensor that revolutionized photography. But two of their former co-workers at Bell Labs in New Jersey — Eugene Gordon and Mike Tompsett — say the citation is wrong. "They wouldn't know an imaging device if it stared them in the face," said Gordon, 79, from his home in New Jersey yesterday.

Gordon, who worked at Bell Labs for 26 years, said the patent used to justify the award makes no mention of imaging devices. The academy said the 1969 invention of the charge-coupled device (CCD) led to the birth of digital photography, "as light could now be captured electronically instead of on film."

The CCD transforms light into a large number of digitized image points, or pixels, in a split second. The device is still used in digital



Nobel laureate Willard Boyle

cameras, camcorders and high-powered telescopes.

Gordon said Smith and Boyle's patent is for something called CCD shift register, which doesn't mention imaging, and the award should have gone to another colleague, Tompsett.

Boyle was Gordon's boss and the head of their laboratory at the time.

"I'm totally confident that the Nobel committee made the right decision," said Boyle, 85, who lives in Halifax.

"I can clearly remember the day that George (Smith) and I developed the concept for the CCD. It's pretty firm in my mind."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man falls to his death while de-icing plane at Calgary airport

ACCIDENT Police and safety officers are investigating the death of a man who fell to the ground while de-icing a plane at Calgary International Airport.

Calgary Police Insp. Rob Williams said the man, in his early 50s, fell about six

metres from the bucket of a de-icing truck around 6 a.m. yesterday.

"An airport employee was de-icing a plane and a co-worker found him on the ground," Williams said. "When EMS arrived, he was dead on scene."

There was light snow falling at the time, but it is not clear if that was a factor in the accident.

The man who died was an employee of Servisair Canada, which specializes in providing de-icing services at airports.

"Our deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of the Servisair employee who lost his life this morning," said Karen Gordon, a spokeswoman for Servisair Canada in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca



Same-sex marriage pioneers and a man who likely saved Jacques Chirac from an assassin's bullet were among Canadians who were headline one-hit wonders in the 2000s. Scan this barcode for the full story or go to metronews.ca/canada.

News in brief

LOCKOUT The union representing 39 workers at three auto dealerships in Sault Ste. Marie says the employees have been locked out. The mechanics, paint shop workers and other staff were reportedly locked out for refusing to sign a new contract. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Relay rejigged amid protest

Run through reserve changed to jogs around bingo hall

VANCOUVER
2010 Games

The Olympic torch's journey across Canada was forced yet again to take a detour in the face of aboriginal opposition to the Games, with an Ontario First Nation rerouting its relay amid a protest from a splinter group in the community.

While the torch still made an appearance on the Six Nations reserve near Brantford in southern Ontario, the original plan to run the flame through the reserve — supported by the elected band council — was altered at the 11th hour.

Instead, the torch was taken directly to a bingo hall on the reserve for a celebration during which some two dozen torchbearers circled the hall with the flame.

Although the splinter group of Six Nations protesters did not succeed in blocking the torch from entering the reserve — a stated aim of their demonstration — the fact the original relay plan was scrubbed and the celebration relocated had them calling their protest a success.

"It's the first time where any person who has stood up against these torch and Olympics has actually had a success in being able to move the celebration," protest spokeswoman Missy Elliott said.

"Different protesters have



Torchbearer Hannah Termaat carries the Olympic Flame in Niagara Falls, Ont., on Sunday. The Olympic Flame is on a 106-day cross-country relay which ends in Vancouver on Feb. 12, 2010, to mark the start of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports

been able to hold it off for an hour or some time but it's never been moved, so this is a huge significance."

While Six Nations parks

and recreation director Cheryl Henshaw wouldn't comment on what role the protest played in changing the plan, she did admit to

some security concerns. Holding the relay in one location made it more of a community event, she added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ticket resale site for 2010 Games launched

VANCOUVER
2010 Games

Vancouver Olympic organizers launched a website yesterday allowing those with tickets to the 2010 Games to sell them unhindered by any price cap.

"We decided to, after much debate, allow a free market on the site," Caley Denton, vice-president of ticketing and consumer marketing for the Vancouver organizing committee, told reporters yesterday.

Organizers say the ticket resale website will help solve the perennial problem of empty seats at Olympic events, while also providing those who can no longer use their tickets an opportunity to legitimately sell them off.

Golden

• Within hours of the site's launch, tickets to the men's gold medal hockey game that were worth between \$350 and \$550 on face value were on offer for \$5,000.

"Our message to consumers can be very simple. If someone's selling tickets outside of this website, people need to ask themselves why they would be doing that."

One reason, Denton conceded, is that VANOC will charge ticket buyers and sellers 10 per cent each per transaction. While online classifieds such as craigslist are levy-free, Denton said peace of mind should play a role.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Games budget on track: VANOC

Olympic organizers are on a spending spree in the final few months until the Games, but are also counting on that time to make just under half of what they need.

The committee has released its financial results for the first quarter of

2009-2010 and say they're on track for a balanced budget.

Up until Oct. 31, the committee was still waiting to take in \$700 million in revenue, but had raised over \$100 million mostly from ticket sales and sponsorship. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

DISCRIMINATION The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal says an En-dorby woman with a serious back injury was discriminated against when she was fired just

three days into a new job after spending 16 years out of the workforce. The tribunal has awarded Carolyn Hurn just over \$12,000. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Tuesday, December 22, 2009

18canada

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Eligible groups can claim home heating
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Canadian medic Sgt. Ian Mothus hands antibiotics to Mohammad Wali, 15, at an Afghan army compound in Kandahar city Friday. The boy was caught in Taliban crossfire seven months ago. His bullet wounds have not healed properly.

Medic treats ailing teen

Afghan boy caught in crossfire

The wounds, still weeping some seven months after Taliban bullets tore through the boy's hip and abdomen, are but one tiny example of the tragedy that is Afghanistan — and the small acts of kindness that sometimes ease its pain.

The boy came hobbling into an Afghan military base in the heart of Kandahar city, his crutches crunching in the gravel, unsure how he would be received.

A day earlier, a chance encounter with a small group of Canadian soldiers showing a visitor around the area had led to an invitation to come see their medic. Now, Mohammad Wali, 15, was making good on that invitation.

His otherwise impassive face as he limped along broke into a brief beaming smile as he recognized the visitor from the day before.

Soon, he was sitting on a

chair outside the Afghans' medic cubicle, while an Afghan soldier went to get a sweater for the boy, who was cold despite the wan winter sunshine.

Sgt. Ian Mothus, a Canadian medic and mentor for the Afghan army battalion at the base, led the boy inside the small facility, and gently laid him down on a bench.

Mohammad had been walking to his compound in the Panjwai district when insurgents attacked an Afghan police patrol seven months ago. He was caught in the cross-fire.

Mothus eventually handed the boy the drugs along with some painkillers, and patiently explained the finer points of taking the medications.

"Unfortunately, you see a lot of it here," Mothus said of the boy's injuries.

"People just get caught in the crossfire. It happens."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian officer faces court martial for death of insurgent

MILITARY A Canadian officer charged in the death of a wounded Afghan insurgent will face court martial next month.

The military announced yesterday that Capt. Robert Semrau's trial will begin Jan. 25 in Gatineau, Que.

Semrau is charged with second-degree murder for the shooting death, which

occurred in Afghanistan in October 2008.

He is also charged with attempted murder, behaving in a disgraceful manner, and negligently performing a military duty.

Semrau is currently serving as a staff officer with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, at CFB Petawawa. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

COURT Family and friends of a 17-year-old Calgary youth who died when he was pushed between two transit train cars wept as emotional victim impact statements were read in

court yesterday. Natalie Pasqua has pleaded guilty to manslaughter for pushing Gage Prevost into the light-rail transit train during a fight over a \$10 drug deal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Charges are expected against a 33-year-old woman after a one-year-old B.C. girl was critically injured. RCMP in Richmond, B.C., say the suspect was the child's caregiver. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Tory senator didn't break rules. Watchdog

Conservative Senator Leo Housakos did not break any ethics rules while working within an engineering firm that landed a federal stimulus contract, a Senate watchdog said yesterday.

Housakos was on the payroll of Groupe BPR Inc.,

last September when it was awarded \$4.5 million as part of a consortium studying the aging Champlain Bridge.

Housakos was a key organizer behind a Tory fundraiser in May attended by executives of BPR and board members of the federal bridge agency that later awarded the contract. The details of the contract were announced the same day as the fundraiser by Public Works Minister Christian Paradis.

Housakos asked Senate ethics officer Jean Fournier to offer his opinion on the

matter, as opposition politicians hammered the government with allegations of an ethical breach.

Fournier said he "did not find any evidence that the senator used, or even attempted to use, his position as senator to influence the decision" of the

Jacques Cartier and Champlain Bridge Inc. (JCCBI). Fournier also said he found the process for awarding the federal contract "fair, rigorous and transparent."

He said that Housakos told him that as president of TerrEau, one of BPR's

subsidiaries, he did not even know BPR was bidding on the bridge contract.

Housakos recently changed two biographies that stated he was vice-president of business development at BPR.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mohawks lose bid in court

OTTAWA The Federal Court of Canada has rejected an application for interim relief from the Mohawks of Akwesasne while they wait for their legal action over the closing of a customs office in eastern Ontario to be heard.

The Canada Border Services Agency closed the customs office on Cornwall Island on May 31. There had been a dispute over the arming of border guards at the office on Mohawk territory.

An application by the Mohawks for a judicial review of the decision is pending before the Federal Court.

In the meantime, they sought interim measures that included orders to stop action being taken against members of the community — such as fines and seizing vehicles — for not reporting to the customs office in Cornwall, Ont.

The Federal Court rejected the application yesterday, saying the Mohawks will not face irreparable harm between now and the time their application for judicial review is finally determined.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politicians fire youth advocate

ST. JOHN'S The legislature of Newfoundland and Labrador voted yesterday to dismiss the province's child youth advocate, who had been suspended over allegations of breaching confidentiality provisions by sending emails to people outside her office.

Darlene Neville was appointed to the post four years ago. She was suspended with pay in August.

Last week, Marshall said the government had lost confidence in Neville's ability after reviewing the concerns raised and her written response to them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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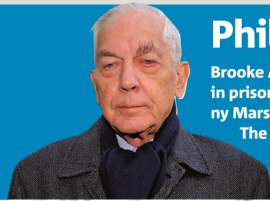


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Court acquits geologist accused of causing earthquakes

A Swiss court yesterday acquitted a geologist accused of causing earthquakes near Basel while drilling deep into the ground in a pioneering attempt to generate power commercially by boiling water on rocks underground. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Philanthropist's son sentenced

Broke Astor's 85-year-old son has been sentenced to one to three years in prison for plundering the New York philanthropist's millions. Anthony Marshall, left, was sentenced yesterday to the minimum allowed. The judge gave him 30 days to get his affairs in order. Marshall also is expected to continue his appeals and might be able to stay free on bail indefinitely. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News in brief

CLIMATE The UN secretary-general is urging all countries to formally sign on to the Copenhagen accord to tackle climate change and to work toward a legally binding treaty in 2010. Ban Ki-moon is also urging rich nations to contribute to a multi-billion dollar fund to help poor countries cope with global warming. The UN chief told reporters yesterday that the non-binding accord reached in Copenhagen early Saturday after two weeks of negotiations didn't go as far as many hoped. But he called the conference a success and said it marks a significant step forward. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

m.metronews.ca



Israelis are engaged in a debate over whether to free 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for one Israeli soldier. Scan this code or go to metronews.ca/world

U.S. acts on flight delays

The U.S. Transportation Department, responding to tarmac horror stories, ordered airlines yesterday to let passengers stuck in stranded airplanes to deplane after three hours.

Under the new regulations, airlines operating domestic flights will be able only to keep passengers on board for three hours before they must be allowed to disembark a delayed flight.

The regulation provides exceptions only for safety or security or if air traffic control advises the pilot in command that returning to the terminal would disrupt airport operations.

American carriers operating international flights departing from or arriving in the U.S. must specify, in advance, their own time limits for deplaning passengers.

613 Number of airport tarmac delays of more than three hours in the U.S. from January to June of this year.

Airlines will be required to provide food and water for passengers within two hours of a plane being delayed on a tarmac, and to maintain operable lavatories. They must also provide passengers with medical attention when necessary.

From January to June this year, 613 planes were delayed on tarmacs for more than three hours, their passengers kept on board.

Airlines will also be prohibited from scheduling chronically delayed flights. Carriers who fail to comply could face government enforcement action for using



In this 2007 photo taken with a cellphone, stranded passengers aboard JetBlue Flight 751 to Cancun walk around the cabin while waiting hours to take off at JFK International Airport in New York.

unfair or deceptive trade practices.

The new regulations go into effect in 120 days.

Airlines have strongly opposed a hard time limit on tarmac strandings. They say forcing planes to return to

gates so that passengers can get off could cause more problems than it cures. They predict more flights will be cancelled, further delaying passengers from reaching their destinations. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

U.S. East Coast residents dig out

STORM Millions of U.S. East Coast commuters returned to work yesterday over slick roads and icy sidewalks and after a weekend winter storm dropped record snowfall and interrupted holiday shopping and travel.

Airport delays eased and travellers stranded by cancelled flights were finally getting off the ground, but there were worries that weekend problems could cause ripples that would be felt during the Christmas rush.

The storm crept up the coast on Saturday and Sunday, walloping much of the eastern coast, causing widespread power outages and treacherous driving conditions.

The weather was blamed for at least seven deaths, most in traffic accidents. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Winton Oil Complete Easel Painting Set
Contains 6 x 21 mL Winton tubes, 3 brushes, 9" x 12" stretched canvas, 2 painting knives, plastic palette and 2 pencils. **44⁹⁵**

Iron-on Fabric Transfer Packs
Contains 30 sheets full of hip hand-drawn illustrations or fresh alphabets and typographic messages to iron onto T-shirts and other fabric. **12⁹⁵ Each**

Liquitex Basics Set of 48
Contains 48 x 22 mL tubes of Liquitex Basics acrylic paint. **34⁹⁵**

Artlab 'Clay Play' Animal Kits
Includes poseable plastic animal armature, several blocks of clay, modeling tools, templates and double-sided diorama. **7⁹⁵ Each**

Smencils Gourmet Scented Coloured Pencils
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Winsor & Newton Brush Set Value Packs
Assortments of popular Winsor & Newton brand brushes including Galeria, Cotman, Artists' Watercolour, Artists' Oil and more. **16⁹⁹ per set**

Glitter Fairy & Ballerina Mould Sets
Ages 5+
Contains plaster powder, reusable mould with themed designs, paint colours, paint brush, magnets, brooch pins and detailed instructions. **7⁹⁵ Each**

Staedtler® Magic Box Triplus Pen Set of 12
Brilliant coloured fine-line markers with ergonomic barrels and metal clad tips. **14⁷⁵**

Acrylic Paint Set with Easel
Contains 12 acrylic tubes, 4 brushes, 3 painting boards, artist apron, palette knife, palette, pencil, sharpener, eraser and carry storage bag. **34⁹⁹**

Liquitex Artist Complete Easel Set
Finished, black table easel contains 8 x 59 mL Liquitex Artist Acrylics, 2 brushes, 118 mL gloss medium & varnish and 12" x 16" canvas board. **54⁹⁵**

Winsor & Newton Universal Canvas 2-packs
100% cotton duck canvas with acid free acrylic sizing for oil, acrylic and alkyd paints. **4⁹⁵ 9⁹⁵ 14⁹⁵**

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Firefighters hospitalized after Irish brewery blaze

Emergency officials say a fire at Dublin's famed Guinness brewery has badly damaged a storage building and left two firefighters hospitalized. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Dwelling unearthed in Nazareth

ISRAEL Days before Christmas, archaeologists yesterday unveiled what they said were the remains of the first dwelling in Nazareth that can be dated back to the time of Jesus — a find that could shed new light on what the hamlet was like during the period the New Testament says Jesus lived there as a boy.

The dwelling and older discoveries of nearby tombs in burial caves suggest Nazareth was an out-of-the-way hamlet of around 50 houses on a patch of about 1.6 hectares. It was evidently populated by Jews of modest means who kept camouflaged grottos to hide from Roman invaders, said archaeologist Yardena Alexandre, excavations director at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

The discovery so close to Christmas has pleased local Christians. "They say if the people do not speak, the stones will speak," said Father Jack Karam of the nearby Basilica of the Annunciation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Hatred of a blind ideology'

Pope discusses visit to Holocaust memorial while criticized over decree

Pope Benedict XVI yesterday described a visit to Israel's Holocaust memorial as a disturbing encounter with hatred, days after his decision to move the controversial Second World War-era pope closer to sainthood angered Jewish groups.

The German-born Benedict signed a decree Saturday on the virtues of Pope Pius XII, who has been criticized for not doing enough to stop the Holocaust.

The decree means that Pius can be beatified — the first major step toward possible sainthood — once a miracle attributed to his intercession has been recognized.

The decision sparked further outrage among Jewish groups still incensed over his rehabilitation earlier this year of a Holocaust-denying bishop, Richard Williamson.

Nevertheless, a planned visit by Benedict to Rome's main synagogue, scheduled for Jan. 17, is still on, said Ester Mieli, spokeswoman for Rome chief Rabbi Ric-



Pope Benedict XVI addresses prelates for Christmas wishes at the Vatican yesterday.

cardo Di Segni.

She dismissed a report in a Rome newspaper that the visit was in doubt following the Pius decision.

Benedict, who was forced to join the Hitler Youth and deserted from the Nazi Army, has repeatedly spoken out against the horrors of Nazism and anti-Semitism, but his efforts to improve relations with Jews

have not always been smooth. Yesterday, he recounted his May trip to the Holy Land in a speech at the Vatican.

"The visit to the Yad Vashem has meant an upsetting encounter with the cruelty of human fault, with the hatred of a blind ideology that, with no justification, sent millions of people to their deaths," he

said.

Benedict's speech during his Yad Vashem visit drew criticism in Israel, with some faulting the pope for failing to apologize for what they see as Catholic indifference during the Nazi genocide. Others noted that he failed to specifically mention the words "murder" or "Nazis."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

KOREAS North Korea threatened South Korean ships with possible attack by designating a firing zone along their disputed sea border yesterday, raising tensions in an area where a brief but deadly clash erupted last month. The western maritime boundary has long been considered a flash point between the two Koreas because the North does not recognize a line the United Nations unilaterally drew at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Yesterday, North Korea designated what it claimed are its territorial waters in the disputed area a "peacetime naval firing zone of coastal and island artillery units." That apparently means that artillery shells could land in the waters at any time.

EUROPE French President Nicolas Sarkozy summoned the head of the French train authority yesterday and ordered him to get the Eurostar moving again after a three-day suspension of the cross-Channel train service that has wreaked havoc on the holiday travel plans of some 40,000 people. Officials at Eurostar — a rail link between England, France and Belgium — said they were confident that service would restart today, with two-thirds of scheduled trains up and running.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Tucumseh Mall
The Promenade

Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Westmount Shopping Centre
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

Health plan inches closer to reality

U.S. President Barack Obama scored a major victory on his top domestic issue as Senate Democrats narrowly prevailed on a procedural vote yesterday backing his plan to overhaul America's health-care system.

The vote all but ensures

the Senate will approve a bill extending health care to 50 million uninsured Americans before Friday's Christmas holiday. But the final outcome remains unpredictable because the Senate measure must be reconciled with a starkly different bill already

passed by the House of Representatives. That is likely the most difficult step in the legislative process.

The U.S. is the only industrialized country to lack a universal health-care program, leaving the uninsured to pay costly

medical bills out of their own pockets. The majority of the country's more than 300 million people have private insurance.

In yesterday's vote, all 58 Democrats and the Senate's two independents held together against unanimous Republican op-

position, providing the exact 60-40 margin needed to shut down Republicans' threat to stall a vote.

Two more procedural votes await the Senate, each requiring 60 votes, the first of these set for this morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebels accused of war crimes

GENEVA The UN yesterday accused the Ugandan-based Lord's Resistance Army of killing, mutilating and raping villagers in Sudan and Congo in what may have been crimes against humanity.

The rebels killed at least 1,200 people and abducted 1,400, including children and women, in northeastern Congo from September 2008 to June 2009, said a report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

A separate report by the UN's rights office said that, in at least 27 attacks on villages in southern Sudan, the Lord's Resistance Army killed more than 80 civilians and kidnapped many others to use as child soldiers, sex slaves and spies.

The report called the attacks in Sudan, which it said took place between December 2008 and March 2009, deliberate and brutal.

Both reports were based on hundreds of interviews with survivors and several field trips to the remote areas by UN employees, said Rupert Colville, spokesperson for the high commissioner.

The rebels frequently cross into Congo and Sudan. Survivors in Sudan said armed rebels attacked people with axes, bayonets, hoes, knives and machetes. They reserved the use of firearms for those who tried to flee, the report said.

The LRA has been fighting the Ugandan government for over 20 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. approves hikes in war spending, jobless aid

WASHINGTON U.S. President Barack Obama has signed into law a bill that combines another round of war spending with help for the unemployed.

The \$626-billion defence bill contains \$128 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and a 3.4 per cent pay raise for the military. Lawmakers also wrapped unrelated economic help into the legislation through extensions of unemployment benefits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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12 – NIAGARA FALLS GO BUS

Two new eastbound trips will depart from Niagara Falls at 9:45 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. and connect to Lakeshore train service at Burlington GO Station on weekends and holidays.

Two new westbound trips will depart Burlington at 11:48 a.m. and 9:48 p.m., serve all stops and arrive in Niagara Falls at 1:03 p.m. and 11:03 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

There will be changes to some weekday and weekend trips including earlier departures.

The weekday eastbound 4:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 trips from Grimsby and the weekday westbound 1:48 a.m. and 8:56, and the 4:34 p.m., 7:08 and 9:48 trips from Burlington GO Station will be discontinued.

20 – MILTON-OAKVILLE GO BUS

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures.

21 – MILTON GO BUS

There are several new trips and changes to some trips including earlier departures.

25 – WATERLOO GO BUS

Six new Friday eastbound trips from the University of Waterloo will run express to Square One GO Bus Terminal. At Square One, there are GO Bus connections to downtown Toronto and Pearson Airport.

Three new westbound trips from Square One will run express to the University of Waterloo on Sundays or holiday Mondays.

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO BUS

Two new eastbound trips will depart Brampton GO Station at 10:50 a.m. and 7:05 p.m., serve Shopper's World, Steeles & Rutherford, the Bramalea and Malton GO Stations, and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 11:45 a.m. and 8:05 p.m.

We're adding 12 new weekend and holiday trips between Brampton GO Station and Union Station.

There are changes to some existing trips including later departures from the University of Guelph and the Guelph Bus Terminal.

34 – BRAMPTON HWY. 427 GO BUS

There will be changes to some trips including earlier departures, and all trips will now also serve the Bramalea GO Station.

The weekday eastbound 5:45, 6:50, and 7:22 a.m. trips from Bramalea City Centre and the weekday westbound 3:20 and 4:50 p.m. trips from York Mills will be discontinued.

40 – SQUARE ONE-PEARSON-RICHMOND HILL CENTRE GO BUS

Service between Square One GO Bus Terminal and Pearson Airport will now be hourly.

52 – HWY. 407 EAST GO BUS

The 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. trips from York University with stops at Langstaff, Unionville, Centennial, Markham and Mount Joy GO Stations, will be discontinued.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO BUS

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Aurora GO Station at 8:35 a.m., serve the Aurora Rd. and Hwy. 404 Carpool Lot at 8:40, and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 9:30 a.m.

66 – NEWMARKET-HWY. 400 GO BUS

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures. Some trips have been discontinued so be sure to check the new schedule.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO BUS

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Unionville GO Station at 9:25 a.m. and run express to Union Station GO Bus Terminal arriving at 10:00 a.m.

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Lincolnville GO Station at 12:30 p.m., serve the Stouffville, Mount Joy, Markham, Centennial and Unionville GO Stations, and arrive at Union at 1:40 p.m.

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Pakistan in damage control after ruling

POLITICS Pakistan's embattled government reached out to the opposition yesterday as it sought to limit the damage from a recent Supreme Court decision striking down an amnesty protecting several of its senior officials from corruption charges.

The court verdict has plunged Pakistan into political turmoil, distracting the government at a time when the U.S. is calling on the country to target Taliban and al-Qaida militants launching cross-border attacks against coalition troops in Afghanistan.

Some opposition members have called for officials who benefited from the amnesty, including President Asif Ali Zardari, to resign.

But the Pakistan Muslim League-N's senior leadership has refrained from taking such a tough stance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sri Lanka **Rebel ship**



A Sri Lankan navy soldier stands guard near Princess Chrisanta (background), a ship used by Tamil Tiger rebels outside the port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. The Sri Lankan navy captured the 90-metre-long ship used to smuggle arms by the Tamil Tiger rebels who were crushed by government forces early this year, a spokesperson said.

Student pleads guilty to decapitation

CRIME A former Virginia Tech student accused of decapitating another student at a campus eatery pleaded guilty to murder yesterday as prosecutors described the killer as an obsessed,

jilted admirer.

Haiyang Zhu had fallen in love with Xin Yang but she rejected him, saying that she had a boyfriend she planned to marry, prosecutors said in reveal-

ing a motive for the first time.

Zhu faces up to life in prison. He did not say why he killed the woman during the plea hearing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Funeral turns into protest

Masses mourn Iranian cleric

Tens of thousands of Iranian mourners turned the funeral procession of the country's most senior dissident cleric into an anti-government protest yesterday, chanting "death to the dictator" and slogans in support of the opposition amid heavy security.

Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri's body was carried to a shrine in Qom. Some mourners clashed briefly with security forces, throwing stones – and hard-line pro-government militiamen charged some protesters until police held them back, opposition Web sites said. The militiamen tore down mourning banners and ripped to pieces posters of Montazeri near his home, the Hammihan Web site reported. Iranian authorities have barred foreign media from covering the rites.

The death of Montazeri on Sunday, at the age of 87, pushed Iranian authorities

Demonstration

- Giant crowds beat their chests in mourning, and shouted denunciations of Iran's ruling establishment during the procession in Qom, witnesses said. Iran's holy city is known for its shrines and clerical seminaries, about 100 kilometres south of Tehran.

into a difficult spot. They were obliged to pay respects to one of the patriarchs of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the one-time heir apparent to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But officials also worried that his mourning rites could give a new push to opposition protests, particularly because they coincide with a week of traditional rallies commemorating a revered Shiite martyr. Montazeri broke with the regime in the 1980s.

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China to execute British man

China plans to execute a British man convicted of drug smuggling before the end of the year, officials said yesterday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

world27

Malawi officials cry for world's help

Thousands of homes damaged after earthquake

Disaster officials in Malawi are appealing for international help after a powerful earthquake killed at least three people and damaged thousands of homes.

Lilian Ng'oma, the Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs, told The Associated Press yesterday from northern Malawi that the situation was "pathetic and sad," with thousands of homes uninhabitable following Sunday's 6.0-magnitude quake in the Karonga district.

The Malawi Red Cross Society and Ng'oma's department have provided some tents, but local official Gasten Macheka said many more are needed.

"We need at least 48,000

"We need at least 48,000 tents ... for the 270, 000 people in the district."

Gasten Macheka, local official

tents to cater for the 270,000 people in the district," he said.

Macheka said 1,111 houses were destroyed by the quake and more than 3,565 were damaged and may collapse. People who have yet to get tents are staying in the open air while water is seen gushing from the ground from broken sewers.

In some areas there are no houses standing.

Macheka said at least three people were killed and 200 injured Sunday.

Karonga District health officer James Mpunga said close to 300 people were treated for varying degrees of injuries from broken bones to skin lacerations.

"We are still receiving more patients from outlying areas," he said.

The Karonga district in northern Malawi has been hit by a series of earthquakes and aftershocks since the beginning of December. Tremors also shook the district Sunday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moscow Uncle Joe's birthday



Russian Communists hold up a portrait of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin yesterday as they queue to lay flowers at his grave in Moscow's Red Square to mark the 130th anniversary of Stalin's birth.

White rhinos relocated home

WILDLIFE A 38-year-old northern white rhino born in south Sudan ate African grasses for the first time in three decades yesterday, the first full day on the continent for the world's last four northern white rhinos capable of breeding. The rhinos' handlers

and park officials hope the rhinos will bear young in their natural habitat and save their subspecies. But the four haven't reproduced in years, and a U.S. rhino expert said he believes the effort is futile — suggesting that the northern white rhino is already

effectively extinct. The four rhinos landed in Kenya after flying in from a zoo in the Czech Republic. They were transported in wooden crates that read "Last Chance to Survive." Only eight northern whites are believed to remain. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Comment

A leader on the high road

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

At long last the United States will get a semblance of a decent health-care system. Barring some unforeseen reversal, U.S. President Barack Obama's reform package will receive final approval next month. It's far from ideal. There is no public option for example. But it's a major step forward after decades of repeated failed attempts. This, along with the steadying of the American economy after its near collapse, will mark the most significant achievement of the first year in office for Obama. Many anticipated

more from him. Following the years of regressiveness under former U.S. president George W. Bush, his expectations were enormous. But he has shown himself to be more of a middle-of-the-road compromiser than a reformer.

This was particularly evident in his decision to escalate the war in Afghanistan. In the election campaign he had spoken of moving America away from the post-9-11 fear mentality. The idea was that the most powerful military nation in the

world would no longer be held hostage to little bands of terrorists hiding away in mountains. Yet though no one has laid a glove on the United States in eight years, the fear of what extremists might do was at the heart of the Afghan escalation.

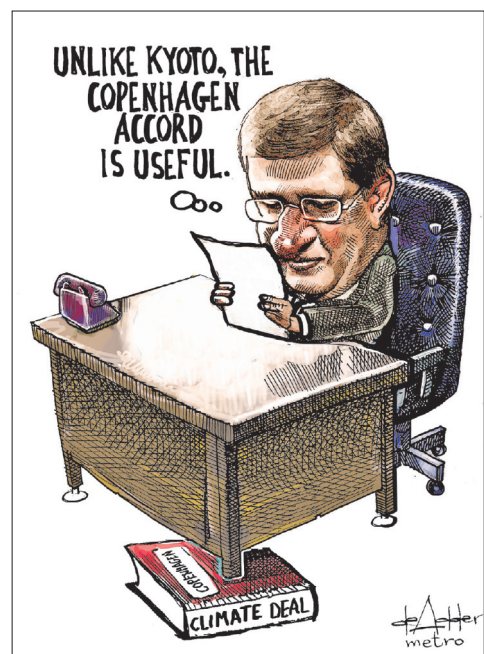
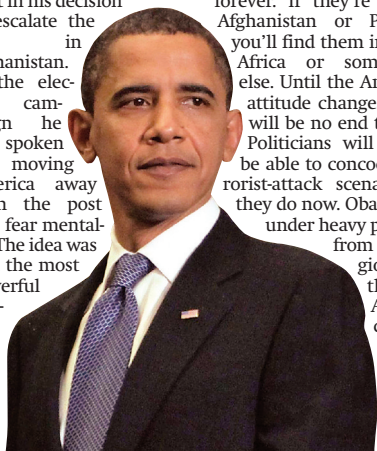
Terrorism will be around forever. If they're not in Afghanistan or Pakistan you'll find them in North Africa or somewhere else. Until the American attitude changes, there will be no end to wars. Politicians will always be able to concoct a terrorist-attack scenario, as they do now. Obama was under heavy pressure from the legions on the American right, now led by hillbilly

Sarah Palin, who makes even Bush sound erudite. Had he not opted for more war, they would have pilloried him.

While the results of his first year have been mixed, it is still enormously comforting to have Barack Obama in place as the world's most powerful man. Watching him, you can see a calm and balanced and enlightened mind at work, a president with a global perspective who views the world without prejudice.

What a beautiful contrast this represents as compared to the narrow-minded confrontationalism of his predecessors. Unlike so many other leaders whose smaller minds are steeped in combat-politics, Barack Obama is one who is on the high road and who will stay there.

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADOR

Views

Not out of jobless woods yet

InBusiness

Charles Davies

So much for the jobless recovery. After scores of worrisome stories grousing that part-time jobs far too often replace full-time positions, and that an economic turnaround would fail to dent unemployment, Statistics Canada had some good news. It reported that 79,000 jobs were added in the month of November, almost half of which were full-time positions. Even the ravaged Ontario economy managed to add 27,000 jobs, the province's best monthly gain since September of 2008. Canada is hardly out of the woods — we're

still 321,000 jobs shy of employment levels before the onset of recession — but the job picture is brightening the way it always does when the cycle turns up. Employers actually hire more people.

Then again, look at what they're being hired to do. The long-term trend in this respect is healthy, or not, depending on your point of view. More than 92 per cent of the jobs added in November were in the service sector. Roughly 78 per cent of the 16.9 million people now employed in Canada perform services rather than producing goods, up from 75 per cent five years ago. The major service categories in descending order of importance: Wholesale

and retail trade; health care and social assistance; educational services; professional, scientific and technical services; and financial services. In the past year, the service sector has added 38,000 jobs. And over the past five years, the total number of service sector jobs has grown by nearly nine per cent.

The goods producing sector is a different story. If the Pythons were mocking Canada today, they'd be singing about lingerie salesmen instead of lumberjacks. In all, there are nearly eight per cent fewer goods producing jobs than there were five years ago. More than 295,000 goods producing jobs were lost in the year ended in November, with more than half of the

cuts coming in manufacturing. Major job losses have also been felt in construction and natural resources, in the latter instance most recently in Timmins, Ont.

There are several reasons for our inexorable drift to a service economy, including globalization (the Chinese and others just make things more cheaply than we can), shifting commodity prices, and the general economic cycle. And at least we can console ourselves with the fact that it will be a private-sector-dominated service economy. The private sector, including company employees and the self-employed, accounts for about 80 per cent of total employment in Canada, only marginally less than it did five years ago.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

Worth mentioning

Dutch authorities seek to unravel mystery of young sailor's voyage

Her dream of becoming the youngest person to sail solo around the world shattered and under scrutiny over her quest, Dutch teenager Laura Dekker ran away from home — to the Caribbean 8,000 kilometres away. Two days after she was reported missing, police managed to track the 14-year-old girl down on the island of St. Maarten.

Police and child care authorities were working yesterday to uncover how exactly Laura got there and why she fled, as a family spokeswoman speculated the pressure of a court battle over the attempt had got to her.

It remained unclear if she had any plans to use the island, half of which is part of the Netherlands Antilles, as a start point for a sailing voyage.

She made international headlines in August when a court temporarily blocked her bid to set sail alone around the world in her eight-metre yacht Guppy.

If Laura were to get permission to set off on the voyage and successfully

complete it, she would break a record set this year by 17-year-old Mike Perham of Britain, who sailed 45,000 kilometres around the world in nine months.

A 16-year-old Australian girl, Jessica Watson, is currently trying to beat Perham's record.

Utrecht District Court ruled in October Laura was

too inexperienced for the marathon voyage. Judges sent her home to live with her divorced father and appointed a temporary guardian to ensure she did not set off on the voyage. They urged her to make better preparations and said they would reconsider her case in July.

In recent weeks she had been feeling drained by the pressure, said family spokeswoman Mariska Woertman.

Laura was expected to arrive back in the Netherlands on a flight early today police spokesman Bernhard Jens said. Police will then ask her how she managed to slip out of the country last week and whether anybody helped her.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Laura Dekker

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Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Falling gold, oil fails to drag down TSX

Toronto market ends in positive territory

The Toronto stock market ended yesterday in positive territory after most sectors posted gains, even as key commodities plunged in value.

The S&P/TSX composite index was up 91.32 points to 11,554.72, in what's expected to be a volatile shortened trading week ahead of the holidays.

Gold stocks led the downside, falling 1.5 per cent as the February bullion contract moved back \$15.50 to close at \$1,096 US an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The value of gold eroded while the U.S. dollar moved higher against other

Recouped

• The TSX has recouped most of the losses made on the market earlier this year, but is still well off the 11,878 high for the year in early November.

major currencies, with its momentum driven by optimism about the economy.

"The feeling is the (U.S.) economy will do a good deal better in the fourth quarter," said CIBC economist Peter Buchanan.

"That's clearly helping the U.S. dollar, and the flip side of that trade is obviously a lot of people who have been short the dollar

have been long in gold. People are reversing that and that's clearly serving to dull some of gold's lustre."

Energy stocks were up 1.3 per cent, with crude oil for the January contract falling 89 cents to \$72.47. The February contract ended 70 cents lower to \$73.72. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Banks are being criticized for not lending, even after some hefty bailouts. However, some say trading, not lending, is the better economic fix. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Shopping Snow cools frenzy



A shopper with bags in hand negotiates snow piled high in the aftermath of a storm in Philadelphia yesterday. The weekend before Christmas is one of the busiest of the year, but snow that stretched from the Carolinas to New England closed malls and kept shoppers off treacherous roads.

French drug maker buying Chattem

TAKEOVER French drug maker Sanofi-Aventis SA said yesterday it has agreed to buy U.S. health-care company Chattem Inc. for about \$1.9 billion US in cash in a deal it said would create the world's fifth-

largest consumer

health-care company.

Paris-based Sanofi-Aventis said it will offer \$93.50 per share to acquire 100 per cent of Chattem, a maker of consumer health-care products such as Gold Bond skin care creams and Icy Hot

pain relief medicine.

Both companies have operations in Canada.

Chattem's Canadian subsidiary, based in Mississauga, sells products including Aspercreme, Flex-all, Pamprin, Selsun Blue and the more prominent Gold Bond and Icy Hot.

Sanofi-Aventis Canada is headquartered in Laval, Que. and employs 900 people that produce medications for Canada and other countries. Another member of the Sanofi group, Sanofi Pasteur of Toronto, is Canada's largest producer of vaccines and employs 1,200 people.

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China unfairly blocking U.S. music, films, WTO rules

TRADE The World Trade Organization's top arbitrators upheld a ruling that China is illegally restricting imports of U.S. music, films and books by forcing American media producers to route their business through Chinese state-owned companies.

Western exporters complain that China's rapid rise as a trade juggernaut

has been aided by unfair policies that boost sales of Chinese goods abroad while limiting the amount of foreign products entering the Chinese market.

Washington claims China unfairly favours domestic industry by setting export quotas on materials such as coke, bauxite, magnesium and silicon metal.

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Business in brief

SCOTTISH MALL The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and U.K.-based Hammerson PLC have teamed up to buy the Silverburn shopping centre near Glasgow, Scotland, for about \$505 million.

SAAB CLOSURE The Swedish government held an emergency meeting with unions yesterday to prepare for the closure of carmaker Saab's main plant, and is allocating an extra \$74.6 million US for labour market initiatives in southwestern Sweden, where Saab now employs around 3,200 people.

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business 33

Your Money

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONews.CA

AlisonOnMoney

Alison Griffiths

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The whole paperless society chatter never took into account the blizzard that hits at this time of year. Wallets, purses and pockets overflow with receipts. Many frazzled shoppers cram them into drawers or inadvertently toss them in the recycling bin.

But come Dec. 26 when they realize how many returns need to be made, they'll rue not spending a bit of time keeping their holiday receipts in order.

My system is ridiculously easy. I have one file marked Christmas gift receipts and another marked Christmas Purchases Miscellaneous. After I return from a shopping trip, whether for gifts, food or decorations, I pull out every receipt and put it into one of the two files.

For gifts, write the name of the person and the items on the receipts. Tiffany's diamond ring, Dad's pajamas, Aunt Flo's candle, etc. This is particularly important if you tend to

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Holiday receipts

Alison's Money Rule:

- During the last days of Christmas shopping panic, your new best friend is a file marked Holiday Receipts.



buy a lot of presents in a single category. Books are always on my list and I'm at the bookstores many times prior to Christmas.

Even though the name of the

book is on the receipt if you buy 10 to 15 books, my average every year, it's easy to forget who got each one.

There's another purpose in this two-file approach to holiday receipts. I'm always curious — aren't you? — about how much I spend every year. Ninety per cent of the folks I work with on budgeting haven't a clue what they spend over the holidays.

How can you possibly create a budget or cut back in a given area or at a certain time of the year if you don't know how much you have been spending?

In the early part of January, before the holiday bills hit your mailbox, take an hour and add up your gift and non-gift purchases. You may pat yourself on the back for thrift, but if you broke the bank you'll have a better idea about how and where to trim next year.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Moxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

Limit holiday spending to cash

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

metronews.ca/moneymatters

I plan to use my credit card to get me through this holiday season. Will the new credit card legislation reduce my interest rate or my ability to apply for more cards?

— Sondeep, Mississauga

In May, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty proposed sweeping changes for credit card issuers. However, there are no provisions to force issuers to reduce the interest rate charged, but payment allocation on balances can be in

your favour. You can apply to as many issuers as you deem appropriate, but that is not recommended, as it can work against your rating. Individuals should have no more than one or two cards. Just keep in mind that the more cards you have, the more you owe.

Using credit to finance your holiday season is not a good idea. Many Canadians fall into debt in December and carry balances on their credit cards that haunt them past Canada Day celebrations. For the holiday season, limit your

spending to the cash in the bank.

Here are some of the changes Flaherty will introduce:

- Minimum 21-day interest-free period on all new purchases
- Statements must give clear indication of how long it will take to pay off balances, if monthly minimum payments made
- Issuers cannot increase credit limits without expressed consent by cardholder
- Payments must be allocated in manner that is advantageous to cardholder

• Limit debt collection practices. The vicious cycle of borrowing to get out of debt, never works.



Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcgca@yahoo.ca and 416-485-5225.

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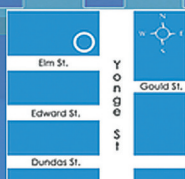


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Sports



Messi honoured as world's best

Lionel Messi won the FIFA World Player of the Year award yesterday for leading Barcelona to an unprecedented treble of Spanish and European titles. The 22-year-old Argentine beat 2008 winner Cristiano Ronaldo, 2007 winner Kaka, and his Barcelona teammates Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta in voting among national team captains and coaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

CFL Recently fired Winnipeg Blue Bombers head coach Mike Kelly will remain in legal limbo until the new year. Kelly was supposed to appear in a Pennsylvania court Wednesday on domestic assault charges, but his lawyer can't attend and has asked for a new date that will likely be in January.

BASEBALL Free-agent pitcher Jason Marquis and the Washington Nationals have agreed to a two-year contract, pending a physical, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press yesterday. One person said the agreement is worth about \$15 million US.

UFC The injury-plagued UFC 108 card was finally completed yesterday with the addition of bouts featuring welterweights Paul (Semtex) Daley and Dustin Hazelett, and lightweights Duane (Bang) Ludwig and Jim Miller. The mixed martial arts show will take place Jan. 2 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

TENNIS The United States will face Serbia on an indoor clay surface in Belgrade for its first-round Davis Cup match next year. The venues for six of the eight first-round World Group matches on March 5-7 were announced yesterday by the International Tennis Federation.

NFL The investigation into the death of Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry carried into its sixth day yesterday without a resolution on whether his fiancée will be charged. Henry died Thursday from massive head injuries, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck driven by fiancée, Loleini Tonga.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Leafs lose to Sabres in overtime

NHL PREVIEW

Sabres 3 Leafs 2 (OT)



Derek Roy scored 3:35 into overtime and Ryan Miller made 34 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs last night.

After winning an offensive-zone faceoff and an ensuing race to the loose puck, Sabres centre Jochen Hecht passed to Roy in front, who deked and then went to his backhand to beat Leafs goalie Jonas Gustavsson.

Nathan Paetsch, with his first goal of the season, and Hecht scored in regulation time for the Sabres in front of 19,235 fans at Air Canada Centre, while Sabres defenceman



Toronto Maple Leaf Niklas Hagman trips Buffalo's Clarke MacArthur last night at the Air Canada Centre, earning a two minute penalty. The Sabres won 3-2 in overtime.

Steve Montador collected two assists.

The win was the sixth in eight games for the

Northeast Division-leading Sabres (22-10-3).

Rookie left-winger Viktor Stalberg, with his sec-

ond goal in three games since being recalled from the American Hockey League, and Ian White

replied for Toronto. The Maple Leafs (13-16-8) lost for the third time in four games.

Once again, the Sabres relied heavily on Miller, who leads the NHL in goals-against average and save percentage and is the leading candidate to be the United States' starting goalie at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

He stopped every puck he saw as both Stalberg's and White's goals came on crease-crashing deflections. The win was Miller's ninth in his past 10 games against the Leafs.

Gustavsson, coming off the first shutout of his career in a 2-0 win over Boston on Saturday, stopped 27 of 30 shots.

Buffalo was 0-for-1 on the power play, while Toronto didn't have a single man advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sens' Fisher engaged to country music star Underwood

Senators centre Mike Fisher has agreed to a new long-term deal, but it has nothing to do with hockey.

Fisher has confirmed reports that he and country music superstar Carrie Underwood are engaged.

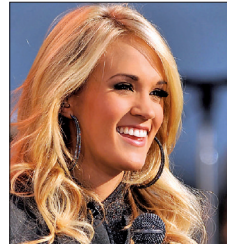
"Yeah, it's true," he told reporters after the team's practice yesterday morning. "We're both obviously excited and very happy."

No date for the wedding has been set. The hockey heartthrob, who's one of the team's most popular players, began dating the former American Idol winner over a year ago after being introduced through a mutual friend.

Rumours of the engagement began swirling on Twitter pages and websites Sunday when a family friend of Underwood, a 26-year-old Nashville resident, tweeted a congratulations to the couple.

"It's great. It's a long time coming," said Chris Neil, Fisher's closest friend on the team. "I think there's going to be a lot of broken hearts in Ottawa with all those girls who are in love with Mikey ... But he's met a great girl."

Fisher, a 29-year-old from Peterborough, Ont., faced a large media scrum after the players skated ahead of their game against the



Carrie Underwood

Boston Bruins last night.

"I think you guys knew before I did," Neil told reporters. "It came out on Twitter about 20 minutes after (Fisher's proposal)."

Fisher would not give details of the proposal, and



Mike Fisher

would only confirm that it took place a day earlier in Ottawa.

"It was an exciting time for sure," Fisher said. "That's all I want to say. The rest I can answer about (the game)." He also provided a

bit of levity by jokingly asking, "Who are we playing?" The rest of his teammates also got a kick out of the development.

"It's good news," said fellow centre Chris Kelly. "Obviously, it's a happy day for the both of them. I wish them all the best."

With hockey players usually quick to provide some good-natured ribbing at the expense of their teammates, Kelly's sincerity made reporters ask if a quip was coming.

"No," he deadpanned, "spending the rest of your life with someone isn't a joking matter."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL		SCOREBOARD	
NHL OVERALL STANDINGS EASTERN CONFERENCE GP W L OL GF GA Pts d-New Jersey 34 25 8 1 102 75 51 d-Washington 36 22 8 6 130 100 50 d-Buffalo 34 21 10 3 91 74 45 Pittsburgh 36 25 10 1 116 91 51 Ottawa 35 18 13 4 100 101 40 Atlanta 34 18 13 3 112 104 39 Boston 34 16 11 7 88 87 39 Florida 37 15 15 7 107 121 37 NY Rangers 36 17 16 3 99 102 37 Tampa Bay 36 13 14 9 91 109 35 Montreal 38 17 18 3 97 107 37 TORONTO 37 13 16 8 106 130 34 NY Islanders 37 13 17 7 90 120 33 Philadelphia 35 15 18 2 95 103 32 Carolina 36 9 21 6 89 131 24		d-San Jose 35 20 8 7 115 93 47 d-Colorado 37 20 11 6 109 107 46 Nashville 36 22 11 3 106 101 47 Los Angeles 37 22 12 3 111 108 47 Calgary 35 20 11 5 101 87 44 Phoenix 36 21 13 2 91 83 44 Dallas 35 15 10 11 105 108 41 Detroit 36 18 13 5 98 96 41 Vancouver 36 20 16 0 110 93 40 Minnesota 35 17 15 3 90 99 37 St. Louis 34 15 14 5 84 95 35 Anaheim 35 14 14 7 99 111 35 Columbus 36 14 15 7 109 126 35 Edmonton 35 15 16 4 105 113 34 YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Montreal 4 Atlanta 3 (OT) BUFFALO 3 TORONTO 2 (OT) Florida 4 Philadelphia 1 NY Rangers 3 Carolina 1 Tampa Bay 4 N.Y. Islanders 2 Boston at Ottawa New Jersey at Pittsburgh Colorado at Minnesota San Jose at Dallas	
WESTERN CONFERENCE GP W L OL GF GA Pts d-Chicago 34 23 8 3 103 71 49		St. Louis at Edmonton Columbus at Phoenix TODAY'S GAMES San Jose at Chicago, 8 p.m. Anaheim at Colorado, 10 p.m. Nashville at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.	
NBA YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Milwaukee 84 Indiana 81 Orlando 104 Utah 99 Sacramento at Chicago L.A. Clippers at San Antonio Cleveland at Phoenix TODAY'S GAMES Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m. Detroit at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Chicago at New York, 7:30 p.m. Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Golden State at Memphis, 8 p.m. Portland at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8:30 p.m. Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.			



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Mike Holmgren has decided to see if he can fix the Cleveland Browns. The Super Bowl-winning coach accepted a job to become the club's president yesterday, joining a franchise needing a major makeover after a decade of losing. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Women's team features speedy, skilled blue-liners

The key component of Canada's Olympic women's hockey team is fast, skilled defenders who can contribute offensively.

The 21-player roster unveiled yesterday includes three young defencemen with considerable offensive upside.

Edmonton's Meghan Mikkelson, Montreal's Catherine Ward and Tessa Bonhomme of Sudbury, are among seven players on the team who will make their Olympic debuts Feb. 13, when Canada opens defence of the gold medal against Slovakia.

Head coach Melody Davidson, who was also behind the bench at the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy, has been cultivating defencemen who can both protect Canada's end of the ice and generate goals.

"Over the last four years, we've been building depth at defence," Davidson said.

The roster includes familiar faces such as Hayley



Captain Hayley Wickenheiser is interviewed after the Canadian women's hockey team was announced in Calgary yesterday.

Wickenheiser of Shaunavon, Sask., Winnipeg's Jennifer Botterill, Jayna Hefford of Kingston and

Becky Kellar of Hagersville, Ont., who will all play in their fourth Olympic Games.

Calgary's Carla MacLeod, named the most valuable player at the world championships earlier this year, is one of the best offensive defencemen in the game.

Davidson retained her, Colleen Sostorics of Kennedy, Sask., and Kellar as defencemen from the 2006 squad. Kellar and Sostorics play a more defensive-style of game.

"I look at our defence and I think we've got a balance of offensive, mobile defence and the stay-at-home, solid defensive defencemen when you look at Sostorics or Kellar," said Wickenheiser, who was also named captain yesterday.

Davidson released two players Sunday night to get down to three goaltenders, six defencemen and 12 forwards.

The players will have a short holiday break starting today before facing the U.S. in exhibition games Dec. 30 in St. Paul, Minn., and Jan. 1 in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

British rugby star finds support after coming out of the closet

Even in this age of enlightenment, a professional athlete considering exiting the homosexuality closet must first exorcise demons.

For hulking British rugby star Gareth Thomas, outing himself last week came only after the disintegration of his marriage, thoughts of suicide and an emotional breakdown.

Calling his former secret "a tight knot in my stomach, always threatening to seep out," he told Britain's Daily Mail, "I was like a ticking bomb. I thought I could suppress it, keep it locked away in some dark corner of myself, but I couldn't."

Thomas, billed as the first top British sports figure to declare he is gay, has become the subject of intense media scrutiny following a candid and heartfelt description of his life as a homosexual in one of the world's most macho sports.

The 35-year-old Thomas is a legend in Welsh rugby, captain of the touring British & Irish Lions and the most capped Wales player

with 100 appearances.

He says he agreed to his high-profile public outing in order to push the sporting world in the footsteps of

other professions where openly gay people are accepted.

The reaction he's received from family and teammates has been "amazing," he said.

He finally broke down in tears after a Wales game in Cardiff and confessed his secret to a coach, who rallied a few of his teammates to his side.

Their reaction surprised him. "They came in, patted me on the back and said: 'We don't care. Why didn't you tell us before?'"

Thomas insists he will not make his coming out "a crusade," but he hopes the message is clear.

"I feel I have achieved everything I could ever possibly have hoped to achieve out of rugby, and I did it being gay," he said. "I want to send a positive message to other gay people that they can do it, too."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Gareth Thomas

Sports in brief

BILLS With Ryan Fitzpatrick and Trent Edwards hobbling, the Bills may be forced to see what they have in third-stringer Brian Brohm. Signed to a two-year contract by Buffa-

lo two days after former head coach Dick Jauron was fired in November, Brohm could get the call this week when Buffalo plays the Falcons in Atlanta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Business advice from Suzanne F. Stevens, founder of Ignite Excellence Inc.

"Having a relationship with your contact is advantageous, but it is important to remember that they have to justify their decisions to others as well and providing them with evidence that highlights the benefits of the relationship will further cement it." NEWS CANADA

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Are relationships enough?

According to Suzanne F. Stevens, founder of Ignite Excellence Inc. a Toronto-based training and development company, when it comes to winning business, a good relationship will foster open and honest communications. It is important to build the relationship, but it is even more critical to learn about the client's experiences and expectations to learn what makes them tick.

NEWS CANADA

A-players know A-players

Company uses social networks to recruit new employees

JON TATTIE
for Metro Canada



Riding out of the recession, companies are looking for cost-effective ways to recruit new staff. One Canadian company has come up with a novel technique it says cuts recruiting costs by 99.3 per cent.

I Love Rewards, a Toronto web-based rewards and recognitions company working with firms like Microsoft and Rogers, needed to fill 17 positions last month. It looked at headhunters, but as they typically take 20 per cent of base salary, it seemed a costly way to go. Even online recruiters can cost anywhere between \$300 and \$750, and advertising isn't cheap.

CEO Razor Suleman says the company doesn't object to paying, but "we are very economical in how we do things." He devised a low-budget approach that would land the best candidates. Using the "A-players know A-players" strategy, Suleman motivated staff to spread the word through their social networks by offering points that are redeemable for rewards.

That netted 1,200 online applications. "It was overwhelming," he says. To cut the list down, I Love Rewards emailed all applicants and invited them to a wine-and-cheese open house.

"We didn't even read their resumés," he admits.



"To be able to eliminate 95 per cent of the people in effectively five hours? At a cost of \$1,800? There is no better way."

I Love Rewards CEO Razor Suleman on the benefits of open house recruiting

"We guaranteed an interview that day, you could learn about our product, you could meet the senior leadership team and experience our office."

Over the two evenings, 400 applicants showed up, meaning two-thirds of the applicants selected themselves out. The remainder got a feel for what the company was about and the company got a feel for what the applicants were about.

The CEO — Suleman — led a Q&A and filtered applicants in for a five-minute interview to get a feel for fit. That took the 400 down to 120 people.

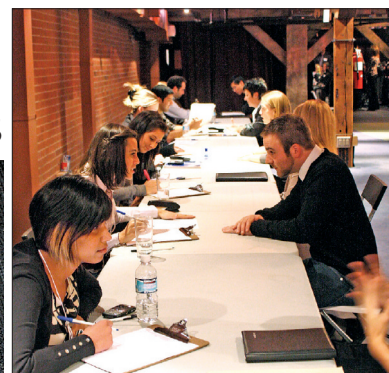
The next stage broke that down into small groups and interviewed candidates with three "experiential" questions and a killer fourth: Ruling out yourself, who would you hire from the group and why?

"It will be crystal clear,"

he says. "Even if you as the interviewer were asleep the entire time, the interviewees will tell you who are the best two that should move forward."

ILR then explored the technical qualifications of the finalists and made their hires.

"To be able to eliminate 95 per cent of the people in effectively five hours? At a cost of \$1,800? There is no better way," Suleman says.



I Love Rewards employees interviewed many of candidates to fill upper-level positions in an open-house format.

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About one in 110 children in the United States have autism, according to the U.S. government's latest estimate released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Autism is diagnosed by making judgments about a child's behaviour; there are no blood or biologic tests. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: JENNIFER.PRITTE@METRONEWS.CA

Happy couples, happy holidays

Surviving the holidays fight-free can be a challenging but doable

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

metronews.ca/thejspot

The holiday season can often feel like you're one mulled wine away from losing it. This is the time of year when it's especially important to know when to pick your battles with your mate. And even more important is knowing how to best duke it out.

First of all: No actual duking. Second, according to a new study out of the University of Texas at Austin couple fights are best diffused through the careful use of "analytical" key words. Words like "think," "understand," "because" and "reason."

By "careful," I'm pretty sure they don't mean telling your sweet, honey, darling, binkie-poo that you "think" that that reason he never "understands" anything you tell him is "because" he has no sense of "reason" and must have been dropped on his head when he was a child.

That isn't going to diffuse anything. In fact, you're more likely to achieve the opposite and spark an atomic-level explosion.



Certain key words can help you and your partner resolve problems

plosion.

Using insults and condescending language rarely wins an argument.

Neither does badgering your partner into talking. You know what I mean: "What's wrong?" "Nothing." "C'mon, what's wrong?" "Just forget it." "C'mon, talk to me." "I don't want to talk about it." "Fine." Silence. Of course, that's when you really kick in. "I have ways of making you talk," you

glare.

Needing to always be right is another useless tactic. If you're one of these, ask yourself what's really more important: being right or being happy and getting along with each other?

Also popular and less than productive is the old sweeping blame game. If any phrases that begin with "you always," "you never," or "why are you such an utter and complete dumbass" are about to come out of your mouth, bite your tongue

"More often than not, stress, exhaustion, or too much Bailey's-laced coffee turns up as the underlying culprit."

Josie Vogels

and count to ten. Then try rephrasing your comments in ways that express how you feel rather than what what's wrong with your partner. "I'm feeling frustrated..." "I'm trying to understand..." you get the picture.

Of course, despite your best efforts, sometimes a fight escalates before you both even know what hit you and you suddenly find yourselves overwhelmed by if-you-say-another-word-my-head-is-going-to-explode frustration. If this happens, the best and only solution is to walk away, calmly, (that means no running after him out the door in your underwear) and regroup. You can both cool off and deal with whatever was there in the first place — if it really was anything — later. More often than not, stress, exhaustion, or too much Bailey's-laced coffee turns up as the underlying culprit.

Happy Holidays. Hope you survive!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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JANINE FALCON
for Metro News



SKINCARE Our appetite for anti-aging solutions feeds a constant release of new technology, ingredients and formulations. As a result, skin care regimens have become more complicated than wash-dry-moisturize. Now we have AHAs, retinol, SPF, vitamin treatments, topical lighteners, concentrated serums and more. "I find that women have trouble figuring out the order of products," comments dermatologist Dr. Paul Cohen, who appears regularly on Canada AM.

A new Applications Tips feature on NeoStrata.ca can help reduce application confusion whether or not the site visitor uses a full regimen of products. NeoStrata, a Montreal-based Canadian company, specializes in anti-aging and anti-acne care in formulations ranging from

cleansers to at-home dermatological treatments.

Executive Vice President Lucy Papas says their staff prompted the initiative. "Every time we'd launch something new, there'd be someone eager to use it

who would ask, 'Now, do I put on my Vitamin C first, or my retinol first?' We realized

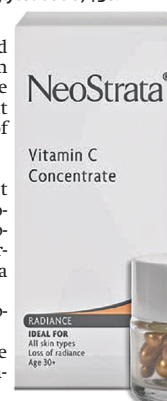
that if we in the industry have these concerns and questions, surely there must be more people out there who do," she explains.

NeoStrata's tips outline the application order of specific types of day and night formulas. Each step also provides a 'why' that can be applied to skincare in general. For example, a note linked to the Vitamins & Serums step explains

that applying them before moisturizer allows skin to absorb them better, and that "moisturizer creates a barrier which keeps your skin hydrated and locks in the benefit of the vitamins." That's information even non-NeoStrata users can appreciate.



NeoStrata Smoothing Cream Level 1 with four per cent glycolic acid, \$36.



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Anna Wintour has vowed to use curvier models in Vogue

The legendary magazine editor has promised to include larger beauties in upcoming issues of the U.S. fashion bible after the success of their January 2010 cover shot image of 25-year-old model Lara Stone. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Surviving stressful situations

CELIA MILNE
for Metro News



Ahh, the holidays. And family. And patterns of behaviour that never change. Your mother makes you feel fat. Or skinny. You always fight with your brother. Your sister bugs you about driving a nice car. How can you survive holiday conflicts and come out feeling good about yourself?

While you are running around getting ready for the holidays, spend a little time thinking about the mental traps you fall into, and what you can do differently. Plan ahead your response to comments you find toxic.

"We have to work to predict what will be difficult for us based on our history with the family, and make a plan," says Merryl Bear, director of the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) in Toronto.

NEDIC staff posted a helpful document on their website called "Coping with the holidays." It's written for people with eating disorders, but many of the tips are applicable to anyone who feels vulnerable at this time of year.

"Family get together are difficult for many of



Take time out for yourself and to unwind over the holidays.

us, regardless of whether we have a psychological illness or not,"



Normaderm, the best 2010 re-solution against acne.

* AC Nielsen, Pharmacies, Canadian sales in \$, YTD 2009.

says

Bear. "Always think in the holiday sea-

son, people are not going to change."

It's easy during family events to put the needs of others ahead of your own. Here are some tips to rejuvenate:

- Plan which events you will attend and which you won't. It's OK to say no.
- Plan to have

restora-

time for your own needs: Go to a movie, turn off the phone, or take a walk.

- Visit or call a trusted friend. You can even let this person know ahead of time that you may need to do

this.

- Buy yourself a present.
- Plan to do volunteer work or join an interest or support group if you are likely to feel lonely, empty or depressed. Build some structure into your

hol-

idays. If the holidays are difficult for you, it's important to spend a little time thinking about which people make you feel uncomfortable and what to do about it.

Do you want to avoid these people altogether? Predict what these people might say to you. Plan your response, and even practice saying it.

NEDIC recommends saying positive things to yourself. Before events, think "I am entitled to ..." During events, "I can handle this." After events, "I did very well."

For instance, you might say to yourself after an event, "I can see that my sister is upset, but it was important that I take care of myself."

Remind yourself that you are a worthy individual and are entitled to respectful behaviour.



A new wave of hand cleansers

ethyl alcohol), your hand sanitizer can be an effective back-up in battling germ nasties.

"Soap and water is best because it washes away the material that holds the virus," Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. David Butler Jones told Metro at a recent press conference. But he agrees that when soap and water isn't available, sanitizers can help.

But you don't have to settle for stuff that smells all-alcohol all the time.

Bath & Body Works offers 60 per cent ethanol anti-bacterial gel cleansers in scents such as Sea Island Cotton and

Warm Vanilla Sugar (\$2). Shoppers Drug Mart's Life Brand (\$1.49) and One Step (\$6.99) both offer 62 per cent ethyl alcohol sanitizers in an array of light fruity fragrances. (One

Step also has an extra-strength formula with a 70 per cent alcohol content.)

If you're thinking biodegradable, Fruits & Passion's Waterless EO (\$8) offers sanitizers that are 62 per cent certified-organic ethanol and contain organic essential

oils as well as organic jojoba oil to keep hands soft.

CLEANSING TIPS
• Make sure hands are free of visible dirt.

• Use enough to wet both hands thoroughly, directs the Public Health Agency of Canada. Rub into palms, backs of hands, between fingers and under fingernails.

• In general, to reduce your risk of getting sick, "keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth," Butler Jones told Metro.

• Don't worry about becoming "sanitizer dependant."

Microbiologist James Scott says he's not aware of any evidence that suggests their use lowers the body's ability to combat bacteria on its own.

JANINE FALCON
for Metro News



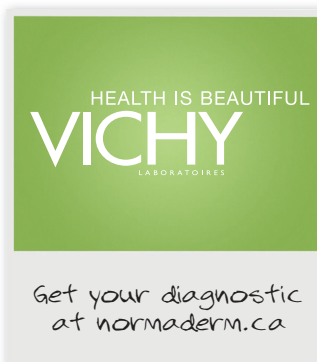
ANTI-BACTERIAL Seems like the latest don't-leave-home-without-it is a hand sanitizer. And yes, it's got a lot to do with fear of contracting the H1N1 virus, which, according to James Scott, a microbiologist and associate professor at the

University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, "unlike most other influenza viruses, likely has some amount of contact transmission."

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), as long as the formula is at least 60 per cent ethanol (also called



Hurry, don't miss out!



Get your diagnostic at normaderm.ca

An injury warning has been issued by emergency staff in the U.K. to those preparing a Christmas dinner while drunk. The most common problems are burns from the oven and people choking on turkey. [BBC.CO.UK](http://bbc.co.uk)

Containing contagious colds

Woke up with the sniffles and a mild fever, but think you can make it to work?

Think again. Many people feel that going to work sick shows their dedication and devotion to the job — but that isn't the case! No one likes to be around a colleague who's clearly contagious. So rather than spreading germs to your co-workers, do them a favour — stay home, rest and recuperate. Re-circulated air in the office is the worst culprit in spreading germs round and round. To beat germs, the more effective thing you can do is combine bed rest with an over-the-counter cough and cold medication.

QUICK FACTS

- A common cold can linger due to the weakening of your immune system, which can be a direct result of stress or lack of proper rest. By choosing to work, you can actually prolong your recovery.
- Feeling nervous about calling your boss? Just remember, when you're sick, it's better for everyone if



When you have a cold, staying home is the best thing you can do.

you stay home.

Here's a tip for making the case to your boss: call him or her first thing in the morning and remember to keep your statement clear and concise.

COLD MYTHS — DEBUNKED

FICTION: The common cold is caused by cold temperatures

FACT: "Although exposure to cold combined with a weak immune system doesn't make matters better, people cannot get a cold from being cold," says Dr. David Greenberg a General Practitioner at St. Joseph's Health Centre. "A cold is actually caused by a virus." However, the colder it is outside, the more time we spend indoors with closed windows and air-conditioners, spreading a virus and infecting more people.

FICTION: Cold symptoms cannot be treated

FACT: Many people believe that cold symptoms are intended to help us get over the sickness quickly — so we shouldn't treat the symptoms with medicines. The truth is that the symptoms not only make no difference to the duration of the cold, they can help spread the bug to other people through coughing and sneezing.

Cold medications will not only make the illness more tolerable, they will also help to keep it better contained.

FICTION: You should feed a cold (and starve a fever).

FACT: There is absolutely no scientific evidence that eating excess will help cure a cold, so don't pig out in hopes of feeling better. Instead look to foods, that although cannot cure, may help cold sufferers feel better such as warm chicken soup, which can loosen nasal mucus and make breathing a bit easier.

NEWSCANADA.COM



Women taking anti-depressants are more likely to have a stroke.

Anti-depressants up stroke risk

CELIA MILNE
for Metro News



HEART HEALTH A large U.S. study has found that taking anti-depressants increases women's risk of stroke.

The study was based on 136,293 women between the ages of 50 and 79. They were followed for an average of six years as part of the Women's Health Initiative study. Women on anti-depressants were 45 per cent more likely to have a stroke than women not taking these medications. Stroke risk was still considered fairly low for individual women, but over large populations, the finding is significant.

It could be that depres-

sion itself raises risk of stroke, so how much risk is associated with the medications is still being studied.

Stroke risk did not vary between two major types of anti-depressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and tricyclic anti-depressants (TCAs), the study found, though SSRIs were linked more strongly to hemorrhagic stroke — a type of stroke involving a bleed in the brain. Researchers were quick to point out that women who have been prescribed anti-depressants by a doctor should not stop taking them, but rather discuss with their physicians the risks and benefits.

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When playing sports, hit the bench if head hurts

CELIA MILNE
for Metro News



SPORTS HEALTH Hockey players take note: It's not OK to return to the ice if you still have a headache caused by a concussion.

Awareness of the dangers of concussions, which are common in hockey and football, has in-

creased now that the NFL has tightened the rules on returning to play.

According the new NFL rules, players must not play if they have any signs of confusion or cognitive impairment, gaps in memory, abnormal neurological exam results, headache, or loss of consciousness.

Two Super Bowl quarter-

backs from last year are recovering from concussions.

Dr. Michael Cusimano, a neurosurgeon at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital, found in a survey that many young Canadian hockey players and their parents didn't realize it wasn't safe to return to the ice post-concussion if the player still had a mild headache.

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Make time for breakfast

Skipping meals may actually promote weight gain and some research indicates that people who skip breakfast are much more likely to have weight problems than those who don't. NEWSCANADA.COM

Playing with pretty party sparkles

How to wear shimmery and glittery makeup

JANINE FALCON
for Metro News



You don't need sequins to claim your glitterati spotlight on the year's-end party circuit. Strategic use of this season's sparkle and shimmer cosmetics will do the beauty trick.

Of the two, shimmer is more wearable for faces of all ages. "It's an easy way to add glamour," says Physicians Formula celebrity makeup pro Joana Schlip, who is artist to Rachel Bilson and Ellen Pompeo.

Schlip's favourite look is a wash of gold, copper or bronze shimmer powder over an espresso or chocolate-brown smoky eye lined with black pencil. "Highlight your browbones with gold, and sweep shimmer under the lower lashes, too," she says.

Definitely rock a shimmer lip with shimmery eyes, but choose colour based on your eye makeup. Schlip likes a bold mouth with a gold eye. Her key bold-lip tip: "Prep with a stain first so that as your gloss fades you won't end up with that ugly colour outline." If you go for a dark smoky eye, however, choose a light lip hue.

Balance all that sheen with subtle cheeks that glow rather than glimmer. Avoid anything with a frosty finish.

If you prefer less shiny

shadow, go for a touch of gleam wherever the light hits your face, advises Toronto-based artist Kevin Smith, who has worked with Kirsten Dunst and Helen Mirren. "Anyone can wear shimmery highlight on the brow bones, tops of cheek bones, down the centre of the nose and on the bow of the lips," he says. Champagne or white is especially pretty at the inner corners of the eyes.

Smith also says a sparing approach is best, so whether you choose a cream or powder formula, always dab excess from fingers or brush on the back of your other hand before applying it to your face.

Best left to the under-30 set, glitter adds a twinkle as liner along the upper lashes. Smith says to hold off on foundation until after your glitter application so you can easily wipe away stray particles.

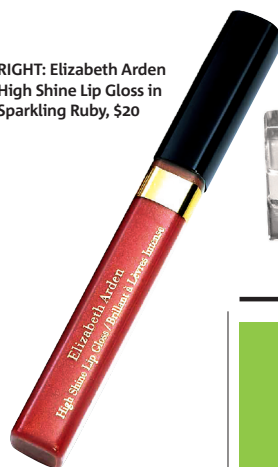
For New Year's Eve, Smith's suggests that adventurous types might try painting a little glitter triangle on the centre of the lids, with the base toward the lashline. And why not add a smaller upside-down triangle under eyes, harlequin style? "It's a theatrical look, great with an 80s-vibe batwing dress and frizzed-out hair," he says. "It's not for the makeup meek, but what's fun about makeup is showing up with something you wouldn't normally do."



COURTESY OF MAC COSMETICS

Use sweeps of gold, silver and bronze to get that glowing look this holiday party season.

RIGHT: Elizabeth Arden High Shine Lip Gloss in Sparkling Ruby, \$20



LEFT: Vasanti Shimmer Powder in Sand Dune (golden bronze), \$14



LEFT: The Body Shop Define & Sparkle black-with-silver-sparkle eyeliner plus black-gel-with-holographic-glitter mascara topcoat, \$18



2010: So long, spot. We're through.



LEFT: Lise Watier Mini Glitter Liners Set, \$29



ABOVE: Physicians Formula Organic Wear 100% Natural Origin Blush, \$18.79

BELOW: Physicians Formula Shimmer Strips Custom Bronzer Blush & Eye Shadow in Vegas Strip \$19.99



ABOVE: MAC MischiefMakers Pigments/Glitter in Sexpot Smoky \$38.50

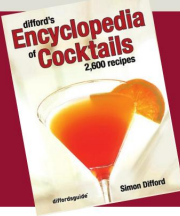


HEALTH IS BEAUTIFUL
VICHY
LABORATOIRES

Paleo Brands, Inc. is introducing a new gourmet entrée and snack line that will launch Jan. 4. The line will consist of unprocessed, preservative-free, grass fed meats, wild caught fish, vegetables, fruits and nuts. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA



Cocktail encyclopedia

Simon Difford is addicted to cocktails. So much so that he's made and sampled 2,600 mixed drinks during his career as a bar owner and founder of his own import company in London, England. Now for those who want to learn more about making cocktails, Difford's *Encyclopedia of Cocktails, 2600 Recipes* (Firefly, hardcover, \$45) has just been published. The book features photos of finished cocktails with their recipes and origin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal Gourmet recipe of the month

ROSE REISMAN

Deck the halls with dessert

The holiday season is all about decadent desserts.

I love the combination of chocolate and cheesecake. These recipes include variations on both these delicious ingredients. The best part is that they are all conscious of calories and fat. So you can actually have your cake and eat it too!

Marble Mocha Cheesecake

Coffee and chocolate go so well with this creamy cheese batter. You can double this recipe: bake it in a 10-inch pan and add another 10 minutes to the baking time, baking until the center is still loose.

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 40 MINUTES

SERVES 12

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ cups chocolate wafer crumbs
- 2 Tbsp water
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 ⅔ cups smooth light ricotta
- 1 ⅓ cup softened light cream cheese
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 ⅓ cup light sour cream or 2 per cent yogurt
- 1 ½ Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 tsp instant coffee granules
- 2 tsp hot water
- 3 Tbsp semi-soft chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vegetable oil

METHOD:

1. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with cooking oil. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. For the crust, combine the crumbs, sugar, water and oil. Mix thoroughly. Press into the bottom and partially up the sides of the prepared springform pan.



Marble mocha cheesecake, above, and chocolate sour cream cheesecake squares, right.

3. For the filling, beat the ricotta, cream cheese, sugar, egg, sour cream, flour and vanilla in a large bowl or food processor until well blended. Dissolve the coffee granules in the hot water. Add to the batter and mix until incorporated. Pour the batter over the crust and smooth the top.

4. Place the chocolate chips and oil in a small bowl and microwave on medium high for 30 seconds or just until soft. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the top of the batter. Draw a knife or spatula through the batter several times to create a marbled effect.

5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. The center will be slightly loose when you jiggle the cake.

6. Cool on a rack. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before removing the sides of the pan and serving.

Chocolate Sour Cream Cheesecake Squares

Chocolate cheesecake in any way, shape or form is not to be refused. These luscious squares have a brownie-type crust that's simply mouth-watering. They freeze beautifully and my children love to eat them frozen—they say it tastes like a creamy frozen chocolate bar! To get

chocolate chunks, use a sharp knife to shave off pieces from a solid block of chocolate.

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 25 MINUTES

SERVES 16

INGREDIENTS:

- Crust**
- ½ cup granulated sugar
 - 3 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
 - 1 egg
 - ½ tsp pure vanilla extract
 - ⅔ cup all-purpose flour
- Filling**
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
 - 2 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
 - ⅔ cup smooth light ricotta
 - ¼ cup light cream cheese, softened
 - 2 Tbsp low-fat sour cream
 - 1 large egg
 - ½ tsp pure vanilla extract
- Topping**
- 1 oz white or semi-sweet chocolate chunks or 2 Tbsp chocolate chips

METHOD:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray an 8-inch square baking dish with cooking oil.
2. For the crust, combine the sugar, cocoa, oil, egg, and vanilla in a bowl. Stir in the flour, mixing just until combined. Pat the mixture into the bottom of the prepared dish.
3. For the filling, combine the sugar, cocoa, flour, ricotta, cream

About Rose



Rose Reisman is an author, media personality, nutritionist, and the inspiration behind a fresh food delivery service, Personal Gourmet, and new website, The Art of Living Well. Visit Rose at rosereisman.com & personalgourmet.ca

and vanilla in a food processor. Purée until the mixture is smooth.

4. Spread it over the crust.

5. Bake in the center of the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. The center will still be slightly loose in the middle when the pan is jiggled.

6. Sprinkle with the chocolate, cool to room temperature on a rack and refrigerate until chilled.

Note: Both recipes can be made ahead of time and refrigerated for up to three days or kept in the freezer for up to two weeks.

Nutritional Info

PER SERVING

Cheesecake	
Calories:	210
Protein:	8 g
Fat:	7 g
Saturated fat:	4 g
Carbohydrates:	29 g
Squares	
Calories:	138
Protein:	3.2 g
Fat:	4.2 g
Saturated fat:	1.5 g
Carbohydrates:	21 g

Liquid Assets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Dinner pairing

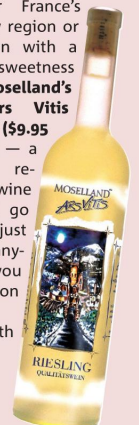
When it comes to the holidays we keep things pretty traditional at my house. Our stockings are hung by the chimney with care and it just wouldn't be Christmas without at least one family feed of roast turkey with all the trimmings.

While I'm sure some of you would like a liquid recommendation for roast beef (try a full-bodied cabernet sauvignon), ham (pick a New World pinot noir), lamb (a medium-bodied Aussie shiraz) or even lobster (nothing beats a ripe New Zealand sauvignon blanc); here are some thoughts on matching wine with the big bird and its varied side dishes.

Even with all the sweet, sour and herbaceous flavours that might wind up on your plate; a classic roast turkey dinner is surprising forgiving when it comes to a wine partner.

In reds think California Zinfandel, Italian Chianti or a Frenchmen from Beaujolais or the Southern Rhône Valley.

For a bottle of white, choose a mid-priced chardonnay from Australia, Chile or France's Burgundy region or a German with a touch of sweetness like Moselland's 2008 Ars Vitis Riesling (\$9.95 - \$17.99) — a bright, refreshing wine that will go with just about anything you plan on serving along with Tom turkey.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years. Follow him on twitter @TheReal-WineGuy and email liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Lawson's Christmas-inspired vodka elderberry gimlet

BOOK Nigella Lawson firmly believes it's possible to bring joy if not to the world, at least to your friends and family. That is, after all, the point of her new book, *Nigella Christmas*.

"People are predisposed to have a great time," says

the popular British chef. "You almost have to go out of your way to have a horrible time."

Spread the holiday cheer with her tasty vodka elderberry gimlet recipe:

The Nigella

INGREDIENTS:

- 60 ml (2 oz) vodka
- 30 ml (1 oz) elderflower liqueur

METHOD:

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine all ingredients. Cover and shake, then strain into a cocktail

glass.

Source: Recipe provided by Nigella Lawson.

Note: Elderflower liqueur is a subtly floral, pale drink. Elderberry most often shows up as a syrup used in cough medicine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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The results are in. Popeater.com has names Taylor Swift and Johnny Depp as its favourite celebrities of the year after asking its readers. Jennifer Aniston and George Clooney were the runner-ups. POPEATER.COM

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONews.CA

Bond Girl

Susan Boyle is being tipped to record the next James Bond song. The Scottish star is said to be thrilled at the prospect of being chosen to lend her voice to the movie, which is due in 2011. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK



Taylor Swift top entertainer

Country singer caps memorable year with Associated Press title

It's a love story, baby.

Taylor Swift sang those words about a young romance, but they apply just as well to America's feelings for the 20-year-old country singer. Swift, adding to the heap of awards already bestowed on her, has been voted The Associated Press entertainer of the year.

Swift was chosen by newspaper editors and broadcast producers across the country in a survey of AP members. She follows last year's winner, Tina Fey, and 2007's pick, Stephen Colbert.

"I am so honoured and so excited," Swift said in an interview by phone with the AP. "This was so unexpected, and I could not be more grateful."

Though her second album, *Fearless*, came out in

late 2008, Swift was ubiquitous in 2009.

She found critical acclaim for her autobiographical and infectious songwriting, exemplified in tunes such as *Love Story* and *White Horse*. She led a sold-out tour across 52 cities in North America.

She won album of the year from the Country Music Association Awards. She hosted Saturday Night Live and performed at the Grammys. She won five American Music Awards, including artist of the year.

At one point, she had eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Swift said that several nights of her year were "golden and shiny and I'll remember forever."

The MTV Video Music Awards was more of a



Country star Taylor Swift — who at one point had eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100 and is nominated for eight Grammys — was voted entertainer of the year in a poll by The Associated Press.

mixed blessing for Swift. She was accepting the award for best female video (the first VMA to be given to a country act) when Kanye West stormed the stage and interrupted her speech. West's stunt set off a media storm that perhaps said as much about Swift's popularity (fans and musicians alike came to her defence)

than it did about West's.

Among those who voted for Swift for entertainer of the year was Danielle L. Kiracofe, entertainment editor for the Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper.

"In a time of 'made' musicians, she writes her own songs and has her own sparkly style," said Kiracofe.

"She's managed to do all of this with grace, class and poise — and without uttering a swear word, dancing on a pole or wearing next to nothing. At the age of 20."

Ellis Widner, style editor for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, applauded Swift for superseding generational boundaries.

"She defines crossover appeal and would seem to be a strong business model in a declining music business."

Ellis Widner

"She defines crossover appeal and would seem to be a strong business model in a declining music business," Widner said.

At year's end, Swift's life is in flux. She'll soon move out from home with her family, making this Christmas an emotional one for her. She may well have more trophies to haul in, too. In January, she'll be attending the Grammys, where she's nominated for eight awards.

"I love to plan 20 steps ahead of myself, and it's really fun competition game that I play with myself, trying to top what I've done last." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

JANUARY 2010



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Tila Tequila could be surrogate mom

Is Tila Tequila giving her brother a shot at fatherhood? In a Twitter post on Sunday, the reality-TV star wrote that she is serving as a surrogate mother for her brother and his wife. **PEOPLE.COM**



entertainment **47**

Joss Stone is free and clear

British soul siren ready for bright new year

MAUREEN LITTLEJOHN
for Metro Canada



British soul sensation Joss Stone is no longer between a rock and a hard place.

Her new album, *Colour Me Free*, on EMI Records, (released in October) has received critical praise. She's got a European tour scheduled for February and she hopes to tour North America later in the year. All good news after 2009, when the feisty 22-year-old singer publicly tried to parachute from her record deal (to no avail) and had her album release delayed for half a year.

"Music is how I get things out. My songs are a reflection of my emotions. I write about everything, when I'm p—ed off, frustrated or in love," she explained over the phone from her home in Devon, England.

Colour Me Free was written and recorded in a

"Music is how I get things out. My songs are a reflection of my emotions. I write about everything, when I'm p—ed off, frustrated or in love."

Joss Stone

week in early 2008 at her mum's live music club Mama Stone's. Warm, organic and rootsy, the 12 songs have a vintage '60s soul feel, peppered with contemporary stylings. An all-star lineup of guests includes guitarist Jeff Beck, drummer Sheila E., singer-songwriter and producer Raphael Saadiq and rapper Nas.

"It was a gorgeous day and I really wanted to make an album. My writing partners Jon (Shorten) and Conner (Reeves) thought I was crazy. The band flew in the next day. We brought in some recording equipment and made it up as we went along," said Stone.

The first two tracks, *Free*

Me and Could Have Been You, are outstanding. "I wrote *Could Have Been You* when I was 15. I asked Jon and Conner to help me finish it. Most of the other songs evolved just by trying sounds out with the band. It was really fun. We didn't use any structure or formula," she said.

Her most challenging accomplishment in 2009 took place on the small screen. In the fall, *The Tudors* TV show featured Stone as German noblewoman Anne of Cleves, Henry VIII's fourth wife. Henry found Anne so repulsive he decided not to consummate the marriage.

"I like her not," he declared. Hard to believe with the glowing Stone



Joss Stone has a new record and hopes to tour North America later in the new year.

cast in the part, but then drama is all about a willing suspension of disbelief.

Stone gamely adopted a German accent for the role, and recalled, "Anne kept her head, she lived through it. Henry gave her

a castle and lots of cash. They became quite good friends. Her ugliness saved her life."

Between writing songs with her band, and doing press for her new album, Stone spent the holidays

with her family in Devon. She even had them all over to her house for Christmas dinner. What did she serve? "Roasted nut loaf. I'm a vegetarian, although I'd serve turkey if anybody wanted it," she said.

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Vancouverite in latest Pie sequel

It's been 10 years since Jason Biggs got cozy with pastry and Alyson Hannigan nattered on about "this one time at band camp" in the sexually charged teen comedy *American Pie*.

Vancouver actress Melanie Papalia — who co-stars in the franchise's seventh instalment, *American Pie Presents: The Book of Love*, out on DVD Tuesday — was just 15 when the original came out in 1999.

She used a fake ID to get into the R-rated screening, she admitted in a recent interview.

"The fake ID wasn't very good — it was like, whited-out over where the date is — and so the guy turned me away and me and all my friends were so bummed out," recalled Papalia, now 25, who eventually got in on a second attempt.

"It was amazing because it was the first of its kind to do that sort of teen sexual comedy — something so outrageous — and there was definitely a lot of (gasping) when I saw it. So to be a part of it now, 10 years later, when it's really I think the first *American Pie* to sort of go back to the origi-



Vancouver actress Melanie Papalia co-stars in *American Pie Presents: The Book of Love*, which is out on DVD today.

nal, it's really cool."

In the latest straight-to-DVD *American Pie* instalment, we get a plot similar to the original in which teen boys are determined to lose their virginity.

Returning characters include Stifler, the irreverent skirt-chaser (this time John Patrick Jordan has stepped in for the role), and Jim's dad, played once again by Canadian Eugene Levy.

Levy's character mentors a randy group of cellphone- and YouTube-obsessed high school students about the *Book of Love*, a so-called bible to scoring with the ladies.

"It was the first of its kind to do that sort of teen sexual comedy."

Melanie Papalia on the original *American Pie*

"Everyone's got a story, it's not just about pushing the boundaries," said Papalia, who plays a formerly promiscuous high school student who is now preaching abstinence (but not for long).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mix of Six

Dance

The National Ballet of Canada presents the holiday classic *The Nutcracker* at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W. thenutcracker.ca.

Performance

The Amazing Kreskin performs at the Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane. rosetheatre.ca.

Play

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DVD picks**District 9**Director: **Neill Blomkamp**

CUNNING TWIST An imaginative idea wrapped in familiar garb — so much so there's a risk of overlooking director Neill Blomkamp's cunning twists of sci-fi convention. It concerns the arrival on Earth of bothersome aliens, an event so familiar to moviegoers, it's liable to elicit more yawns than shrieks from the audience. Blomkamp could have made the aliens as cuddly as E.T., to elicit sympathy in their similar plight of being stranded on a hostile planet. Instead he's made them repulsive, scorned by humans under the pejorative term "prawns." You have to overcome your gag reflex to even look at them, especially when subplots involving alien sex and cannibalism kick in. Blomkamp puts the dramatic burden on wiry newcomer Sharlto Copley, whose bureaucratic alien wrangler Wikus van der Merwe is like a cross between Adolf Hitler and Inspector Clouseau. Much more could have been drawn from the film's Johannesburg setting and allusions to South Africa's racist apartheid policy, now defunct. Blomkamp instead lets his images carry the film's unspoken message: Colour becomes irrelevant when all of humanity feels threatened. All of



these thoughtful choices make District 9 a far more forceful movie than your average alien invasion saga. It's only when the film yields to violence in the final stretch that it begins to lose some of its creative heat. Depending on whether you go plain DVD or Blu-ray, the extras include a director's commentary, a multi-part documentary (The Alien Agenda: A Filmmaker's Log) and various featurettes.

(500) Days of SummerDirector: **Marc Webb**

CHEMISTRY Guaranteed to either delight or vex you, depending on your tolerance for Zooey Deschanel and her patented brand of kookiness. She's the Summer of the title in Marc Webb's numerically cute rom-com, which

refers to the number of days her character spends with Joseph Gordon-Levitt's angsty Tom, a trained architect slumming as a greeting-card scribe. There's undeniable chemistry between the two, and some pleasant twists in the tryst, but Webb leans too much on references to better comedies, *The Graduate* and *Risky Business* among them.

All About SteveDirector: **Phil Traill**

COMEDY? There's something about Mary in this awful screwball comedy, but it's not the least funny. Mary Magdalene Horowitz is a ditzy stalker played by Sandra Bullock, who at 45 is a good 20 years past when a role like this could be considered humorous rather than pathetic. The miniskirt, red go-go boots and umbrella don't help. She's chasing Bradley Cooper's titular Steve, a TV cameraman who almost had a date with Mary. Extras include a cast and crew commentary, deleted scenes, a featurette and a gag reel.

PETER HOWELL/FOR METRO CANADA

Skating

Disney On Ice Presents Princess Classics, featuring Cinderella, Jasmine, Belle and other Disney characters at the Rogers Centre, 1 Blue Jays Way. disneyonice.com.

Music

Christmas With The Canadian Brass takes place at Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. roythomson.com.

Concert

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SAME-DAY RELEASE - DEC. 22

Movie experiences that defined the decade

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

From computer-animated innovation to comic-book crusaders coming to life on the big-screen, the past decade in movies has been as remarkable as any period in cinema's century of existence.

Sure, it also gave us such goose eggs as *Gigli* and *Battlefield Earth* but for every box-office bomb there's been a fantastic work of art that has transformed its genre and explored imagination. Here's a look at the best cinematic experiences of the last ten years.

Lord of the Rings

Of course there were actually three movies, but Peter Jackson's daunting adaptations should truly only be considered as one. Either way, this stirring trilogy earned 30 Oscar nominations and won the Best Picture in 2004.

The Dark Knight

The decade's only film to solidly give the reigning

all-time box office champ (*Titanic*) a run for its money, this Batman thriller is history's top-earning comic-book movie. Plus, who could forget Heath Ledger's Oscar-winning turn as the malevolent Joker?

No Country for Old Men

The Coen Brothers continued to shine with this amazing rendition of Cormac McCarthy's harrowing bestseller. Not only did it win the Best Picture Oscar but Javier Bardem did for the term "friend-o" what Jack Nicholson did for "Here's Johnny!" in 1980's *The Shining*.

Memento

Filmmaker Chris Nolan (*The Dark Knight*) rose to fame with this mindbender about a man trying to discover who murdered his wife. The problem: His memory isn't too clear so the narrative is as mysterious as his concussed mind.

Wall-E

Even though it was obvious before this 2008 hit, Pixar fully established itself with *Wall-E*

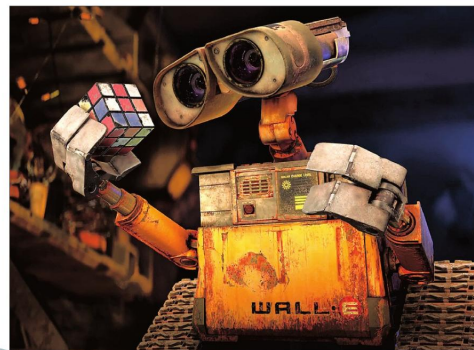
Movie feature

as the decade's most progressive studio providing family fare that's intelligent, challenging and entertaining for both kids and adults.

There were several other films over the past decade worth mentioning as well:

Eccentric screenwriter Charlie Kaufman teamed up with director Michel Gondry for the absurdist rom-com *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*; Martin Scorsese won a long-awaited Oscar with his cop-dra-

ma *The Departed* and Guillermo del Toro even created one of the decade's most amazing movies with *Pan's Labyrinth*. And even though that fantasy flick may not have achieved the same legend at the box-office, it shows that the past decade will be perhaps best remembered for the promise of what's to come in the next ten years.



The film *Wall-E* helped Pixar to full establish itself as a Hollywood player during the '00s.

Top 10 in '09

It's been a very good year for movies. After all, recent reports have shown that admissions are up over last year (which is necessary when blockbusters like *Avatar* are costing upwards of \$500 million to make). But with the past twelve months giving us everything from big-budget thrillers like *Star Trek* and *Watchmen* to edgy indie dramas like *Paranormal Activity* and *Humpday*, it's never easy to compile the best of the best. Instead, I scoured ten film critic associations' lists in order to find the best movies of 2009. As the cream rose to the top, here is what became the most popular films of 2009:

- 1 **The Hurt Locker**
- 2 **Inglourious Basterds**
- 3 **Up**
- 4 **Up in the Air**
- 5 **Precious**
- 6 **District 9**
- 7 **A Serious Man**
- 8 **(500) Days of Summer**
- 9 **Fantastic Mr. Fox**
- 10 **The Messenger**

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO CANADA



Lord of the Rings transformed the epic adventure genre and set the tone for similar movies throughout the decade.

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E1 ENTERTAINMENT

Simpsons turning public off on nuclear power?

TV An American philosophy professor who has edited a series of books about how TV programs such as *The Simpsons* have affected popular culture says many people may be concerned about nuclear power from watching the animated cartoon show.

Dr. Bill Irwin, a philosophy professor at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., says Homer — the bum-

bling main character in *The Simpsons* who works at a nuclear power plant — has perhaps helped to put a negative spin on nuclear power by doing such things on the show as trying to stop a meltdown by randomly pressing buttons on a console. He also points out that the owner of the nuclear power plant in *The Simpsons*, Mr. Burns, is portrayed as a

cold-hearted, greedy industrialist. But the show's most intelligent character, Homer's daughter, Lisa, is portrayed as a staunch environmental advocate.

"She's very eco-friendly and very much against nuclear power and the nuclear power plant run by Mr. Burns," Irwin said during a recent interview on a Saskatchewan radio talk show.

The editor of the book *The Simpsons and Philosophy* says television and movies about nuclear disasters such as *Chernobyl* and *Three Mile Island* have also added to negative publicity surrounding nuclear power.

Irwin has also edited a series of similar books, which look at the effect of such TV shows as *The Sopranos*. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



A philosophy professor has charged that *The Simpsons* has shaped the way people perceive nuclear power.

Katy Perry has no designs on Pattinson

Relax, Kristen Stewart: Katy Perry is no Twi-hard, and she's not hooking up with Robert Pattinson. That's the message Perry, 25, made loud and clear on Twitter Sunday. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Stern threatens to leave Sirius radio

Satellite provider, shock jock set to enter 2010 talks

Howard Stern is threatening to leave Sirius XM Radio Inc. now that the shock jock and the satellite radio provider are getting set to enter contract talks in 2010.

That threat probably seems less daunting to Sirius than it once would have. Sirius originally wanted Stern so badly that it gave him the most lucrative radio contract ever, a five-year deal that started in 2006 and paid him \$500 million US in cash and stock.

Today, he doesn't have many places left to go — at least if he wants another huge payday.

Free radio stations are struggling with steep drops in advertising and high debt loads, and proba-

bly can't pay top dollar to get Stern back to the medium where he began. He also likely would chafe at being censored again after enjoying the freedom of satellite radio, where his racy banter hasn't been subject to federal restrictions on language and content. He can't switch to another satellite radio provider — Sirius swallowed the only other one, XM, last year. So if Stern, 55, does re-sign with Sirius, it's likely to be for less this time around.

Sirius nearly had to file for bankruptcy protection this year and is still trying to reduce costs. The company is feeling the brunt of weak auto sales, which deliver many of its new customers. And it faces new

threats from emerging commercial-free rivals such as Internet radio.

For these reasons — and because Stern has warned other times that he might quit or retire — his latest threat rings hollow to some analysts.

"It's probably positioning for contract negotiations," said Brett Hariss, an analyst at Gabelli & Co., whose parent Gamco Investors Inc. owns 1.1 million shares of Sirius. "I don't think he would give up his bullhorn."

Sirius' chief executive, Mel Karmazin, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he will work hard to retain Stern, but the company would not offer more.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sex Therapy album lays it on Thicke

Singer talks about the response to his latest cd and his move into acting

Robin Thicke's new CD is called *Sex Therapy*, but the sensual singer says guys have to think beyond the bedroom if they want to keep a woman happy.

Thicke's prescription for a satisfied woman includes the occasional foot rub, a dinner date, shopping sprees and listening sessions. But sex does play a part as well — hence the title of the album.

Q If you were a sex therapist and you had to give advice to a couple with intimacy issues — what would you say to them?

A First thing, they probably just need to slow down and look at each other again and get in a new environment. Maybe go to a different restaurant, go anywhere else, have her try on some new lingerie, buy her some new lingerie, make her feel sexy. Maybe she needs to do something to make him feel sexy. But you can't ever give up on it because it's so easy to just start sitting there and the hours turn into days and



Recording artist Robin Thicke poses for a portrait in New York.

the days turn into weeks and the next thing you know you ain't doing nothing with each other.

Q How did your family respond to the new music?

A The CD is so wild and some people, they're a little of-

fended even though they love certain songs. They're like, 'Wow, you're getting so this and that.' I'm like, 'It's not that serious.' ... My older brother, who always liked my music very much but never gone over the top, he just said, 'I can't stop listening to it.' He

said, 'This album is like great sex, I just want more and more and more of it.' And I was like, 'Wow, that's a pretty good advertisement.' (Laughs) ... But then my mom (actress Gloria Loring) hears it and (is like), 'Oh, it's a little aggressive for mommies.'

Q I hear will you be acting soon — tell me about that.

A I wouldn't want to bring down other actors by saying what I'm trying to do is acting.

(Laughs)

What they do is acting. I'm just trying. But I got a role in this animated film (Rio) with Anne Hathaway and a few other very talented people, where I play a bird, a singing bird.

Q I know your wife is pregnant — how does it feel to know you will be a father soon?

A It's extremely exciting.

All day long when I get a little worried or scared or anxious or tired, I just say, Thank you God for, as of right now, a healthy child and a healthy wife and a happy home.

In this world that should be enough to make a man happy for a day, you know what I mean?

Every time I get a little frustrated I just thank God for those things.

Murphy was sick ahead of her sudden death: Doctor

MEDICATION Brittany Murphy was ill with flu-like symptoms in the days before her death and prescription medications were taken from her home, the Los Angeles coroner's office said yesterday.

The 32-year-old star of films such as *Clueless* and 8 Mile died Sunday morning after collapsing at her Hollywood Hills home. Paramedics tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Police said there was no evidence of foul play.

Assistant

Chief Coroner Ed

Winter

said they

conducted

an autopsy

yesterday

to try to determine

what killed the actress,

said

her death

appeared to be from

natural

causes. He

said the ill-

ness,

reported to

officials by

her family,

could have

contributed

to her death, but it will be

weeks before a final deter-

mination is made. The

coroner's office will defer

releasing a cause of death

until after toxicology tests

are complete. Officials will

contact her personal

physician to get a better

sense of Murphy's medical

history, Winter said.

Neighbour Clare Staples

said she saw firefighters

working to resuscitate the

actress Sunday morning.

She said Murphy was on a

stretcher. Murphy's

husband, wearing pyjama

bottoms and no shoes, ap-

peared "dazed" as

firefighters tried to save

her, Staples said.

"It's just tragic," she

added.

Funeral arrangements

have not been announced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya'sStyle

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

	Vu	SD	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/22/09	265	353	2	TVO Parks	Recreat. Eden	The Best of The Agenda	East West 101 (N)	Science and Islam (N)	Best-Agenda			
	211	331	3	ETV ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS 'Silent Night'	The Christmas Choir (2008, Drama)	Jason Gedrick	News Final			
	215	343	4	OMNI1 Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)	Vivere V	Omni News: Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Metropia			
	210	302	6	CBC Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Christmas Story **** (1983, Comedy)	The Jay Leno Show (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour			
	214	344	7	CITY Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV)	The Biggest Loser "Where Are They Now?"	The Rankin Family Reunion	Deck the Halls (2005, Comedy-Drama)	Ken Pogue (DVS)	CTV News			
	212	313	8	CTV Corner Gas	Degrassi: TNG	Bugs Bunny	Die Hard 2 *** (1990, Action)	Bruce Willis, Bonnie Bedelia	News at 11 (N)			
	218	345	11	CHCH Little Troll Prince	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition	Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case	
	-	-	14	-	-	George Lopez	World's Most Amazing Videos	To Serve and Protect	The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker	
	213	326	15	SUN The Insider (N)	Access H.	NCIS 'Silent Night'	NCIS: Los Angeles	The Good Wife "Crash"	News at 11			
	-	387	16	CBS Inside Edition	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	The Biggest Loser "Where Are They Now?"	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Christmas at the White House	News
	-	386	18	ABC Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Insider (N)	The Biggest Loser "Where Are They Now?"	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Christmas at the White House	News
	219	346	20	ACH-B Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye	Lives of the Saints (2005, Drama)	Sophia Loren	Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special (HDTV)	Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Business Rpt.	
	-	-	28	FOX Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Nova (DVS)	Frontline (DVS)	Anatomy of a Pandemic	PIX News at Ten Tong	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	
	-	388	61	PBS PBS NewsHour	Foot in Grave	90210 (HDTV)	Metrose Place "Pilot"	WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	297	652	330	WPX Two/Half Men	Family Guy	90210 (HDTV)	Metrose Place "Pilot"	WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	296	654	331	SBK The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	90210	
	298	653	332	TLA The Tyra Show	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)	Campbell Brown (N)	Big Mac: Inside McDonald's	Biography on CNBC	The Ultimate Fighter	Sportsnet Connected	Hockey Central	
	502	390	26	NW Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)	Campbell Brown (N)	Big Mac: Inside McDonald's	Biography on CNBC	The Ultimate Fighter	Sportsnet Connected	Hockey Central		
	500	500	33	CNN CNN Tonight (N)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	509	504	79	CNN CNN Tonight (Live)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	405	417	22	net Best Damn Top 50 Special	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	400	400	30	TSN That's Hockey!	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	411	457	58	OLN Ghost Hunters	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	417	406	81	SC Pass Time	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	551	542	25	YTV Year Without a Santa Claus	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	554	544	45	TEL A Dennis the Menace Christmas (2007, Comedy)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	555	540	51	FAM Sonny Chance	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	602	567	27	W Stolen Miracle (2001, Drama)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	570	580	29	MM Gossip Girl (HDTV)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	615	520	31	A&E Paranormal	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	700	800	35	TLN Centovettrine	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	571	581	36	MMM I Want to Work for Diddy	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	575	583	38	CMT Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	616	521	39	SHO The Outer Limits	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	620	523	40	BVO Christmas at the Concert Hall	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	601	562	41	SLC Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	522	506	43	HIS Ancient Discoveries (N)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	625	548	44	COM Air Force	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	600	564	46	H&G House Hunters	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	294	529	47	TBS Family Guy	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	576	582	49	BET (S) ATL	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	627	528	50	SPC Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	581	566	52	MTV MTV Cribs	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	618	524	54	TROP 70s Show	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	603	561	56	FOOD Ricardo	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	261	394	60	V Murder, She Wrote	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	621	527	63	STR Look-A-Like	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	553	546	65	TRE Annabelle	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	526	507	249	VIVA Cold Case "Revolution"	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	300	601	301	M1 (6:55) Twilight ** (2008, Romance)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	305	612	306	PI (7:10) Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within (2001, Fantasy)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	520	146	-	DISC Daily Planet (N)	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	637	-	-	TVLND Red Green	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time
	605	-	-	FASH FashionTele	Boxing Manny Pacquiao vs. Miguel Cotto	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivor	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)	Pass Time

critics'corner

Deck the Halls

Better yet, let's deck the writer who actually accepted money for cranking out this sugar lump about a fatherless 8-year-old who leaps to the obvious conclusion when he spies a new neighbor who has a sleigh, a red suit and various other familiar-looking trappings. Before you can say, "Take my mom, please!" Junior has visions of a stepfather named Santa dancing in his head. 9 PM on CTV



NCIS Gibbs and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about a "Silent Night." 8 PM on GTV CBS

The Good Wife

Will and Alicia have only 72 hours to prove who is responsible for a freight train crash that officials are trying to blame on three engineers, whose widows are being denied their pensions in "Crash." 10 PM on CBS

Fatone awaits second child

'N Sync star Joey Fatone looks set to become a father again in 2010. The pop star-turned-TV presenter's wife Kelly Baldwin is due to give birth to the couple's second child in January, usmagazine.com reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Celebrity Buzz

Zeta-Jones flashes Broadway auditorium

PEEKABOO Some Broadway theatergoers got a little more bang for their buck at a recent performance of A Little Night Music when Catherine Zeta-Jones inadvertently flashed a section of the auditorium, according to Page Six.

"I couldn't believe it. No wonder Michael Douglas looks so happy," an audience member says. "The couple sitting next to me also saw it and poked each other." **METRO WORLD NEWS**



Britney Spears posts fiction alerts on website: Report

DO YOU REALLY CARE ANYWAY? Having trouble sorting fact from fiction when it comes to Britney Spears? Allow Britney herself to help you out, people.com reports.

The pop star has introduced a new "Bulls—t Alerts" page on her website, meant to deliver "the inside scoop straight from Britney and her team on what's true and what's bull."

The page launches by focusing on the bull, and lots of it. A post titled "The Year in BS" presents a list of the 75 most outlandish media stories reported about Britney over the past year, as determined by the Spears team.

"There were more than 13,000 stories written about Britney in 2009," says the post. "We ranked the ones we believe were the most ridiculous. Either because they were factually inaccurate, because they

reported the patently absurd, or because we believe they are simply offensive to the sensibilities."

The No. 1 story on the list, from the Mirror in the U.K., claimed that Brit-

ney was dating Indian choreographer Sandip Soparkar.

Also in the top 10: reports that Spears, 28, wasn't prepared for her world tour, that she thought her father was drugging her, that she was dating music producer Dallas Austin, and that she filmed a music video topless.

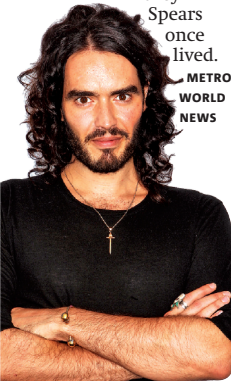
METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brand, Perry purchase Brit's old estate

HOLLYWOOD LIVING Things seem to be going swingingly for Russell Brand and Katy Perry, as the British comedian has reportedly purchased a home to share with Perry, according to Holliscoop.

The property in question is a \$3.5 million US, seven-bedroom mansion in The Summit estate in Los Angeles, the same gated community where Britney Spears once lived.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Neil Patrick Harris suffers from the snow like everyone else, **Lindsay Lohan** tries to clear things up after getting hacked and **Ashton Kutcher** pays his respects to **Brittany Murphy**.

• **@ActuallyNPH** Holiday Airline Madness! Flight to NY cancelled, mad dash to find seats in full planes. Feel like I'm on the Amazing Race. In the bad way.

• **@lindsaylohan** I never twittered anything about Rihanna, I actually just had to email someone to reset my password. Waste of paper to all you tabloids :)

• **@aplusk** 2day the world lost a little piece of sunshine. My deepest condolences go out 2 Brittany's family, her husband, & her amazing mother Sharon. see you on the other side kid.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Winehouse causes stir during Christmastime pantomime

NO STAGE FRIGHT Amy Winehouse shocked theatre-goers by hurling abuse at the cast and reportedly kicking the theatre's manager, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The troubled star is being investigated by British police after her antics at the pantomime — a traditional musical comedy production, typically performed around Christmas — which saw her disrupt the performance of Cinderella by heckling its stars before at-

tacking front-of-house manager Richard Pound.

Winehouse — who is thought to have been drinking — reportedly spent more than half an hour of the first act of the performance yelling expletives.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Miller invites Law over for the holidays

HEY JUDE, TAKE MY CHRISTMAS AND MAKE IT BETTER Sienna Miller has invited Jude Law to spend Christmas with her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who has reportedly rekindled her relationship with the Sherlock Holmes star — has now asked him to join her at a secluded beachfront villa in Barbados

where she will be spending the festive break with friends.

A source told The Sun newspaper: "She is jetting to the Caribbean (today) and has asked Jude if he would like to join her."

"He's very much considering the proposal." **METRO WORLD NEWS**



Doherty busted upon leaving courtroom

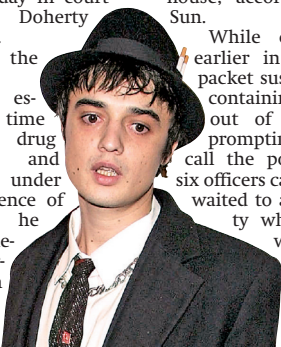
DRUGS IN HIS POCKET It was a rough day in court for Pete Doherty yesterday.

While the troubled rocker escaped jail time for drug charges and driving under the influence of alcohol, he was immediately arrested on new charges

while leaving the courthouse, according to the Sun.

While checking in earlier in the day, a packet suspected to be containing drugs fell out of his pocket, prompting security to call the police. "About six officers came over and waited to arrest Doherty when his case was over," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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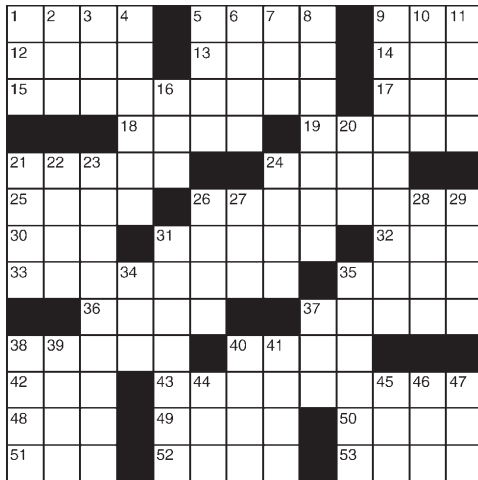
\$9.75!
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SAVE 50% ON YOUR FIRST PAYDAY LOAN

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moneymart.ca



Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

ACROSS

1 Muslim pilgrimage
5 Omit
9 Omega predecessor
12 Jai —
13 Golden Rule word
14 Rowing need
15 Cheating
17 "Birth — Nation"
18 Bird house?
19 Page or Pompeo
21 Smartens (up)
24 Book after Joel
25 Pale
26 Starving
30 Modern-day evidence
31 Legerdemain
32 Gorilla
33 Jogged untogged?
35 Manitoba tribe
36 Swiss artist
Paul
37 Creator

38 Bigfoot's family?
40 Part mine, part yours
42 Eggs
43 One-piece swimwear
48 Lair
49 Wedding shower?
50 Liniment target
51 Deluge refuge
52 Raw minerals
53 City on the Rhone

DOWN

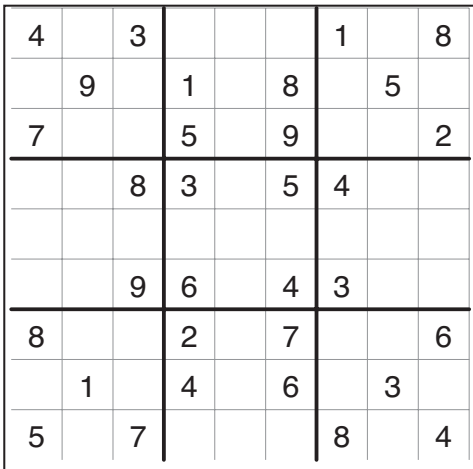
1 Possessed
2 Foreman foe
3 Pickle holder
4 Unlicensed taxi
5 Dines
6 Entanglement
7 Judge Lance
8 Attack on one's opinions
9 Sly one with a cue
10 Secure
11 Persia, now
16 "Of course"

20 Part of UCLA
21 Bankrolls
22 "— It Roman-tic?"
23 Reality show for budding entrepreneurs
24 In the thick of
26 Charlatan
27 Census statistic
28 Duel tool
29 Antelope's playmate
31 Orchestra leader
34 Inventor
Whitney
35 Informal
37 "— Miniver"
38 "Star Wars" sage
39 Always
40 Formerly
41 Banjos' kin
44 Melody
45 Unfriendly
46 However, in poetry
47 D.C. VIP

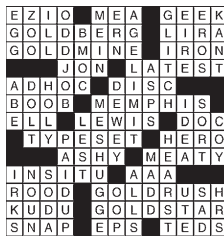
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

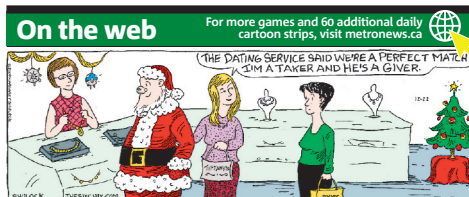
HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	4	3	1	6	5	8	2	9
1	2	6	9	8	4	7	5	3
9	5	8	7	2	3	4	6	1
3	8	9	6	4	2	1	7	5
5	1	4	8	3	7	2	9	6
6	7	2	5	9	1	3	4	8
8	3	5	4	7	6	9	1	2
2	6	7	3	1	9	5	8	4
4	9	1	2	5	8	6	3	7

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.caARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

This is the ideal time to make an impression on people in positions of power. If you are hoping for a promotion the Sun will help you be noticed.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

You will have to deal with people today who, to say the least, are emotionally difficult and there may be times when you could scream at them to stop.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

You can work alone if you wish but the planets indicate you need to join forces with like-minded people if you want to see your dream become a reality.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

Words will come easy to you today and you will leave no one in any doubt what it is you mean and what it is you expect of them.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

Try not to be too concerned about what you own and earn because that could lead to conflict with someone whose needs may be at odds with your own.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

Don't worry too much if your financial and business affairs are in a bit of a mess because the Sun's transit of the money area of your chart will help.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

If you are serious about your aims and ambitions it would be wise to consult partners and colleagues before you do anything about them.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

If you want to start something new or if you want to change your life in some way now is the time to stop thinking about it and to start acting.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs your daily routine will pile on the pressure over the next few days.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

This is generally a happy time of year for you but it could be one of the happiest ever if you face up to a fear that has been a constant in your life.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

Because the Sun is transiting the most dynamic area of your chart you must aim higher than ever before.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

Make the effort to get out and about and meet new and exciting people. You are an introvert but you should be more adventurous.

This day in history

1944: World War II: Battle of the Bulge — German troops demand the surrender of United States troops at Bastogne, Belgium, prompting the famous one word reply by General Anthony McAuliffe: "Nuts!"
1944: World War II: The Vietnam People's Army is formed to resist Japanese occupation of Indo-China, now Vietnam.
1965: In the United Kingdom, a 70mph speed limit is applied to all rural roads including motorways for the first time. Previously, there had been no speed limit.
1989: Berlin's Brandenburg Gate re-opens after nearly 30 years, effectively ending the division of East and West Germany.

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Fax: (416) 630-9790

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*According to an independent consumer survey conducted in November 2009.





Holiday deals

starting at

649

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$222

Varadero

Sol Sirenas Coral Resort • 3 ★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.

Jan. 2 - 15 • 1 wk.

\$649

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$222
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally
Please add \$50 for Mon. & Fri. departures
Please add \$100 for Sat. & Sun. departures

La Romana

Gran Bahia Principe

La Romana • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite

Jan. 9 & 16 • 1 wk.

\$1089

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$307

Puerto Vallarta/Riviera Nayarit

Dreams Villamagna

Nuevo Vallarta • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive

Junior suite tropical view

Jan. 31 • 1 wk.

\$1389

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$274

Holguin

Sirenis Playa Turquesa • 4 ★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.

Jan. 7 - 23 • 1 wk.

\$729

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$222
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally
Please add \$50 for Sat. departures

Hawaii/Honolulu via Vancouver

The Equus an Aqua

Boutique Hotel • 3 ★

Continental breakfast

Savvy saver Polo City view rm.

Jan. 25 • 1 wk.

\$899

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$144

Saint Lucia

Coconut Bay Beach

Resort & Spa • 4 ★

All-Inclusive

Deluxe garden view rm.

Jan. 24 & 25 • 1 wk.

\$1529

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$224

Samana

Gran Bahia Principe

Cayacoa • 4 ★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.

Jan. 2, 9, 10, 16 & 17 • 1 wk.

\$849

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$307

Los Cabos

Barceló Los Cabos

Palace Deluxe • 5 ★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite

Jan. 9 - 30 • 1 wk.

\$1199

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$275

Liberia, Costa Rica

Occidental Grand

Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm.

Feb. 4, 6, 11 & 18 • 1 wk.

\$1569

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$204
Departure tax: 26 USD cash, paid locally
Please add \$50 for Sat. departures

DEAL to EUROPE

Paris

Hotel Cervantes Paris • 3 ★

Breakfast

Standard double rm.

Jan. 14, 15, 21 & 22 • 3 nts.

\$537

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$338

DEAL on CRUISES

Celebrity Cruises¹

Celebrity SummitSM

Southern Caribbean Cruise

Flights to San Juan

Oceanview stateroom, cat. 7

Mar. 6 & 20 • 1 wk.

\$1429

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$272

PALACE RESORTS

Cancun/Riviera Maya

Moon Palace Golf

& Spa Resort • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive

Superior deluxe garden view rm.

Mar. 7 • 1 wk.

\$1889

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$285

Punta Cana

Moon Palace Casino,

Golf & Spa Resort • 5 ★

All-Inclusive • Caribbean suite

Jan. 9, 16 & 23 • 1 wk.

\$2099

*Taxes & other fees
(including service charges): \$307



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